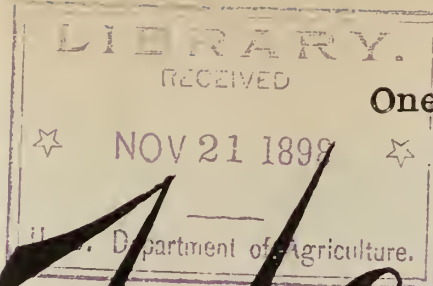


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# A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 2.

BOSTON, MASS., NOV. 15, 1898.

NO. 5.

## Your Subscription Ended

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## EDITORIAL HINTS.

Thanksgiving.  
Keep growing.  
Don't lag behind.  
Make repairs now.  
Success means work.  
We have no enemies.  
Failure follows neglect.  
Prepare for cold nights.  
Have things convenient.  
Get rid of surplus stock.  
Don't be a back number.  
Burn sulphur in each pen.  
See our big clubbing offer.  
The wise don't know it all.  
Where do your fowls roost?  
Utility discards mongrelism.  
Are you prepared for winter?  
There is an art in marketing.  
Keep the poultry manure moist.  
Up-to-date poultrymen succeed.  
Our subscription list is growing.  
Don't disturb the fowls at night.  
Keep the houses free from stench.  
You cannot have things too clean.  
Both keeper and poultry need grit.  
Cold rains are dangerous to stock.  
Sudden changes hurt the egg crop.  
Putoff raises more lice than chicks.  
Old methods are generally worthless.  
A FEW HENS is making friends daily.  
Fowls are generally shy of strangers.  
The inbred thoroughbred is a failure.  
Practical poulterers are hard at work.  
A FEW HENS is a journal of reference.  
Have you the "Poultryman's Library?"  
Stop criticising your neighbor's methods.  
Mongrels, like cheap labor, are unreliable.

## Experimental Farm Notes.

*Two Pedigreed Light Brahma Cockerels Added to the Stock—Putting in Eureka Nest Boxes—A Revision of the New Bill of Fare—The Wyandotte Pullets Doing Good Work—Our Plan of Operation, by Which We Intend to Secure That Living.*

We added two cockerels, procured from A. J. Silberstein, Hartnest Farm, Framingham, Mass., to our Light Brahma stock. A pedigree blank accompanied the birds, which showed that the one cockerel (No. 90) was hatched May 26, 1898, and that his dam laid 197 eggs to date (Oct. 12), scored 90, and that the granddam laid 166 eggs during the year. The other cockerel (No. 48) was born May 9, 1898; its dam laid 136 eggs up to September, when she was sold; and its granddam laid 177 eggs. The sire of the first cockerel was a freak for growth, weighing 12 1-2 lbs. at 7 months and 20 days of age.

Mr. Silberstein says: "No. 90 is a son of dam 94. She began laying December 15, 1897, and laid 7 eggs in December; 15 in January; 20 in February; 29 in March; 27 in April; 29 in May; 12 in June; 29 in July; 14 in August; and then stopped. Total, 197. She seems to bear out your theories that hens don't lay in moult, except that she laid half throughout it. Don't know why she don't lay now. Dam's mother laid 166 eggs. Dam's granddam laid 141 eggs. This last named was sister to the hen whose granddaughter is now making a remarkable record for me—has laid 224 eggs to this date (October 18), and has 87 days to complete her laying year. No. 48 is a son of 95. She was my crack hen. Dam's mother laid 177 eggs; granddam 152." With this new blood in our stock, we shall look for still greater improvements in our Brahma fowls.

\*\*\*

We are at present putting Mr. Silberstein's patent Eureka Nest Boxes in all our pens but those occupied by the Leghorns. We are hesitating about using the method with them, as Leghorns being such scarey fowls, we fear the constant handling will injure their laying. But our Brahma and Wyandotte hens

will be introduced to the new nests, and we believe we will be able to give some large records. The more we know of these nests the better we like them, and certainly would advise our readers to send three dollars to Mr. Silberstein and secure full instructions and the right to manufacture the same. By having a close record of the stock, you will know how to mate the following year, and how to gradually build up a heavy laying strain.

\*\*\*

In the October issue we gave our bill of fare for the coming season. Part of the ration was omitted, and we give it herewith complete:

*Morning*, mash made of equal parts, by measurement, of bran, cornmeal, middlings, (and ground oats when we can get it) and Pioneer Clover Meal.

*Noon*, scalded oats.

*Night*, wheat, barley and cracked corn mixed (use 1-2 wheat, 1-4 barley, 1-4 cracked corn).

Monday—10 per cent of Bowker's Animal Meal, and 20 per cent linseed meal are added to the mash.

Tuesday—Tablespoonful charcoal to quart of mash; also 10 per cent Animal Meal.

Wednesday—20 per cent linseed meal is added to mash; and cut green bone is given at noon—about a pound to 16 fowls.

Thursday—Spoonful of Sheridan's Condition Powder to 15 fowls; also Animal Meal as above.

Friday—Same as Tuesday.

Saturday—Same as Wednesday.

Sunday—Same as Thursday.

The *noon* feeds are as follows:

Monday—Cooked cut clover hay (not the meal) is fed warm, in troughs, all the fowls will greedily eat. An hour afterwards oats are scattered among litter in scratching sheds.

Tuesday—Either raw potatoes, turnips, beets or onions are cut up in our Evans Root Cutter, and fed in troughs. An hour afterwards oats are scattered among the litter in the scratching shed.

Wednesday—Green bone is fed in troughs; also oats, as above.

Thursday—Same as Monday.

Friday—Same as Tuesday.

Saturday—Same as Wednesday.

Sunday—Only oats are given.

The above gives about as fine a variety

as one could wish to have. We hope to report good results from that feeding. Our idea in feeding the cut clover hay cooked, at noon, is to present clover in both forms. The clover meal we feed in a raw state, mixed with the morning mash. The cooked hay is given as a separate dish, is highly relished, and makes a bulky food. After drawing off the tea the hay is fed in troughs. Cooked clover hay is not so apt to bind the crop as when the hay is only scalded. The tea that is drained off we use for mixing up next morning's mash. We heat it again before using.

We would make another addition to the above bill of fare if we had it. That is, we would mix the morning mash with hot milk. But until the Experimental Farm has a cow of its own (which we expect to have another year) we must resort to hot water on days when we have no tea from the cooked clover hay.

\*\*\*

Our Wyandotte pullets started laying on the 14th of last month, and are now doing good work. We did not have their winter quarters ready before the beginning of October, so that we gave them a setback in laying by moving them around. Still they began early enough for our purpose.

\*\*\*

We have been asked upon what plan we intend working our two acre experiment, for best results. We cannot say just yet what will be the precise lines, but our plan will be something like this:

The poultry year with us will really begin with October. During that month and during the months of November and December, we will hatch broilers, and have table eggs and breeding stock for sale.

During January, February, March, April and May, we will hatch breeding stock, using the culls for roasting purposes. Also hatch ducklings for market, using hens for the latter when our incubators are occupied with hen eggs.

During these months we will also sell eggs for hatching, table eggs and broilers. During June, July, August and September, we will hatch ducklings, as we have the eggs; and have for sale eggs for hatching, table eggs, roasting fowls, broilers, ducklings and breeding stock. This plan, or about as we have mentioned, will, we believe, establish the living on a two acre plant.

### Eggs and Egg Farming.

*Mr. Beyer's Wise Pointers—"Fresh" Eggs—Does Washing Hurt Eggs?—Protein in Eggs—Salt Aiding Egg Production—A Heavy-Laying Brahma—Meeting the Demand—Value of Eggs as a Crop.*

Beware of the hidden nest.

Gather eggs several times a day.

Fred Grundy says eggs certainly are injured by washing.

E. Nelson Ehrhart says washed eggs have a frailer shell.

A great deal of deception is daily practiced in the egg business.

Washing eggs may remove the "bloom"—but dirt fills the pores, which is worse.

Washed eggs will not keep so well, nor hatch so well, Fred Grundy says, as unwashed ones.

With proper care hens are like money on interest—work Sundays, holidays and rainy days.

The New York *Produce Review* says eggs sent to market are often injured by washing.

C. E. Chapman says a bit of Sapolio and a damp cloth will remove spots on eggs. Dip the egg in water, and wipe at once.

Eggs are the all-year-around crop. Other crops have their harvest, when they must be sold at once or stored at an expense.

Is there any food product of more importance to the community in general than the production of the hen? asks J. E. Beyer.

The Philadelphia *Record* says a neighbor hauled a cord of wood to market for \$2; his wife carried ten dozen eggs the same day, which brought \$2.50.

A Montana subscriber to A FEW HENS writes that in that state fresh eggs never get lower than 25 cents a dozen, and during moulting season are 35 cents a dozen.

Prof. James Dryden, of the Utah Experiment Station, says: "If you wish an egg a day from your pullet, that pullet would have to eat enough egg material each day to produce the egg."

H. W. C., in Hope Farm Notes, in *Rural New-Yorker*, tells "honest facts" about eggs and egg farming. That is, he states things as he finds them. That's exactly the policy which A FEW HENS adopts.

Prof. W. P. Wheeler, of Geneva, says that, by analysis, he finds but little difference in the amount of protein contained in different eggs. This difference seems to vary more with the breed than with the food.

Who of you would call for an egg for dinner if you had had a stale one for breakfast? asks J. E. Beyer. Every fresh and wholesome dozen of eggs creates a demand, while every stale dozen helps to destroy it.

The editor of *Rural New-Yorker* says: "I heard a good deal of talk about 'fresh' eggs. What does 'fresh' mean? Lots of farmers take their eggs to market 'once in 10 days or two weeks,' and feel quite hurt if the buyer calls them stale."

*Rural New-Yorker* says it would seem, from the little we know about the subject, that the composition of the egg might be varied by a change of food to a greater extent than the milk of the cow could be changed by varying the ration.

The Philadelphia *Record* says a crate of eggs, which can be taken to market in a light vehicle, will fetch as much as a load of produce. The cost of producing eggs is nothing compared to the hard work and expense of producing the other.

You must learn to suit the whims of consumers, says the Indiana *Farmer*. Although color of eggs does not change their contents, the consumer is lead to believe that a brown egg is better than a white one, and vice-versa, by his own imagination.

Geo. O. Brown says poultrymen should unite to prevent the imposition existing of imposing on the public by merchants selling long-kept cold storage eggs as "strictly fresh" ones. An effort to secure regular customers in cities and towns by farmers, and then supply them every day with the real, genuine "strictly fresh eggs" would help to keep down such deceptive methods.

An Indiana correspondent sends A FEW HENS a pamphlet entitled: "The Future Outlook, and Improving the Quality of Eggs," which is distributed among the farmers of that state. The pamphlet is an address by J. E. Beyer, Rochester, Ind., and adopted by the National Carload Butter, Eggs and Poultry Association. It is a valuable pamphlet, showing how to have better eggs.

Editor Braden says: Eggs are wanted; eggs are cash; eggs always sell. The market may be low at times, but the average price is good. We need more egg growers and more eggs to shut off importations. Americans should raise eggs for export. The fact of our importing eggs is an impeachment of the fowls we breed. Raise more egg producers. They are in demand.

"Is there anything more disagreeable than to buy a dozen eggs and find eleven of them unfit for use?" asks J. E. Beyer. "The wealthy would despise such a deal, and could there be a greater injustice done the laborer who has appropriated a portion of his daily earnings for eggs, only to regret in every instance that the dollar has been spent on this uncertain commodity."

A. J. Silberstein, proprietor of Hartnest Farm, Framingham, Mass., writes A FEW HENS that one of his Light Brahma hens began laying January 14, 1898, and kept at work as follows: January, 12; February, 19; March, 30; April, 25; May, 28; June, 24; July, 29; August, 23; September, 20; October (up to 12th) 9. Total to date, 219, and 93 more chances to increase it before her laying year will be up.

F. W. Proctor, in *Poultry Monthly*, in referring to hens diminishing egg production in mid-summer, says: "During several seasons when I mixed salt with the feed, about as would suit the human palate, I found no difficulty in maintaining a good egg yield until cold weather. Last season I omitted salt, and my fowls took to moulting all through the early and late autumn. I am impressed with the value of salt as a means of prolonging the life of the feather, and shall add it to the rations this season accordingly."

O. W. Mapes, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says: "I have been producing about 1,000 dozens a month for years, and every egg goes into a pan of lukewarm water as soon as it is gathered out of the nest. All dirt is easily removed after the eggs have been allowed to lie in the warm water a few minutes, and the heat imparted to the egg by the warm water causes it to dry quickly, and gives it that fresh appearance peculiar to a new-laid egg. If the water hurts their quality. I have never heard of it."

### About Broilers and Roasters.

*Heavy Shipments to Market—Comparison of Weights in Growing Chickens—Measley Broilers—Capt. Casey Early in the Field—Requisite for Success—Breast Meat Wanted.*

Tag every carcass.  
Adopt a trademark.  
Ship the day you kill.  
Don't raise "scrub broilers."  
Small roasters are in best demand.  
You cannot raise broilers on free range.  
Common stock do not make good broilers.  
Inbred stock cannot produce good broilers.  
The broiler business cannot be run by hens.  
A good carcass poorly dressed loses its value.  
Attractive roasting fowls are always saleable.  
More caponizing is done in the west than the east.  
The preferred weight for capons is not over 7 lbs. each.  
After reaching 2 lbs. in weight the chick is no longer a broiler.  
Quick growth and clean quarters make tender and sweet meat.  
Be sure the animal heat is out of the body before shipment.  
Choice broilers come from thoroughbreds or good first crosses.  
It is easier to raise broilers artificially in midwinter than in fall or spring.  
Indian Games are especially noted as having an abundance of breast meat.  
Jacobs says only one person in ten escapes reverses at some period in broiler raising.  
Fowls that do not readily respond to fattening foods have a weakness that needs to be looked after.  
Thos. C. Allen says he likes Wyandottes best for early fries, for broiling, but for 5 lb. and 8 lb. roasters, the Cochins, or crosses of the Cochins, are the best and tenderest.  
Thos. C. Allen, of Glassboro, N. J., began years ago to buy up poultry and eggs and ship to market. Today he markets between \$150,000 to \$185,000 worth of the product annually.  
It is conceded by all that the best quality of meat on a fowl is found on the breast, says *Prairie Farmer*. Hence, all who seek for first-class table fowls should select the breeds which have the greatest amount of meat on the breast.  
The first requisite for success in market poultry is the judicious selection of a variety for the purpose intended, says the *Prairie Farmer*. For the purpose under consideration pure-bred fowls are so far superior to mongrel stock, that no one who desires to make the best of it should for a moment entertain the idea of using mongrel or mixed varieties.  
To the editor of the *Reliable Poultry Journal*, Thos. C. Allen, of Glassboro, N. J., said: "Last year I bought 507 tons of dressed poultry, all within a radius of 12 miles of Glassboro. Farmers wives raise the most of it. Now and then you will find a farmer who turns in and helps, but the women in this section raise the most of the poultry."

Capt. Casey, proprietor of Aratoma Farm, Katonah, N. Y., writes, under date of October 8: "I have already in my brooder house over 500 chicks for January broilers, and two machines filled with duck eggs, after very satisfactory tests, so my early ducklings will come to good market. In all, I have 6 machines (chicks and ducks) running now, and will be able to fill two more the coming week." That's business. Those early in the field get the choice plums.

P. H. Jacobs very wisely says: "What is the use of raising a lot of miserable, measley broilers, of all ages, sizes and colors, and that 'weigh less the older they are' when you can just as easily raise chickens of uniform color, size and quality, with double weight for market and a higher price per pound?" But that is just the kind of measley stock one gets when he buys the eggs for his incubators as Mr. Jacobs advises. There is but one correct way, and that is to raise the eggs on your own farm.

*Poultry Keeper* gives these interesting facts: "We once made a test with chicks of different breeds, using 10 chicks of each breed, so as to secure an average. When one month old, 10 young Brahmas (together) weighed 7 lbs. and 2 ozs, while 10 chicks of the Wyandottes, Leghorns and Plymouth Rocks weighed 7 lbs. (every 10) or only 2 ozs. less than the Brahmas. The second month the 10 Brahmas weighed 17 lbs., 10 Wyandottes, 15 lbs., 10 Leghorns 14 lbs., and the 10 Plymouth Rocks 14 pounds. The third month the 10 Brahmas weighed 33 lbs., 10 Wyandottes 30 lbs., 10 Leghorns 24 lbs., and the 10 Plymouth Rocks 25 pounds. Of individual chicks the third month the heaviest Brahma weighed 3 3-4 lbs., the heaviest Wyandotte 3 1-4 lbs., the heaviest Plymouth Rock 2 3-4 lbs., and the heaviest Leghorn 2 1-2 pounds."

### Pointers on Food and Feeding.

*Value of Linseed Meal, Barley, Corn, Pea Meal, Rice, Potatoes, Wheat, Oatmeal, Green Bone, Buckwheat and Clover Hay—Formulae for Morning Mash—Keeping a Hen on 56 Cents a Year—Curing Lazy Hens by Feed—Mr. Jacobs and Oyster Shells.*

Pea meal is nutritious.  
Rice is easily digested.  
Linseed meal is carthartic.  
Linseed meal is a cooked food.  
Understand the nature of foods.  
Potato starch is very digestible.  
Watch the effects of the new diet.  
Properly-fed fowls are regularly fed.  
Wheat is rich in solids but poor in water.  
Barley is very nutritious but rather laxative.  
Potatoes contain about 22 per cent of starch.  
There is fully 5 1-2 per cent of fat in oatmeal.  
Barley has much of the same qualities as wheat.  
Corn contains from 7 to 8 per cent of yellow fat.  
Oatmeal is said to contain more nutriment than wheat or barley.

Make preparations now to save a supply of green food for winter feeding.

A teaspoon to a tablespoonful of linseed meal is a good allowance for a hen.

Green bone contains meat, blood, gristle, oil and mineral matter in soluble condition.

Poultry need carbon, nitrogen and lime, says Dr. J. H. Casey. Green bone contains all these.

F. L. Cooper says that linseed meal is today about the nearest perfect food for fowls for egg production.

No formulae in feed can be given which will suit all breeds in the hands of all breeders. Each must study his own conditions.

Dr. Parkes, in "Practical Hygiene," says there is more strength to be gained in the human family from eating poultry and eggs than from potatoes, arrowroot, bread or fish.

When hens are inclined to be lazy, L. E. Keyser recommends feeding the mash or soft food at night, letting them work for their breakfast in the morning.

James Greenwood, in *Fowls*, England, says changing the diet frequently, keeping your birds clean, allowing them sufficient exercise, is of all other ways the one to make poultry keeping a success.

L. E. Keyser, in *Reliable Poultry Journal*, says that by careful buying and judicious blending of the food products, he has kept hens satisfactorily at an average cost of 56 cents each, per year.

S. C. Brown Leghorns, choice Cockerels and Pullets. Eggs in season. ZUNDEL BROS., Grapeville, Pa.

**BUFF LEGHORNS.** Cockerels for sale. May be hatched; good in shape and of a rich buff color. Only a limited number for sale at \$3.00 per head. C. W. NEWMAN, Oak Hill, N. Y.

**W. Wyandottes and B. Rocks.** Hunter and Norton strains. Fine Mar. and Apr. hatched pullets and cockerels for sale. F. E. Bancroft, Groveland, N. Y.

**FOR SALE.** White Wyandotte Cockerels and Barred Plymouth Rocks. Pekin ducks, \$1 each. Winfield Darling, South Setauket, S. I., N. Y.



**WHITE WYANDOTTES.** Business stock. Wm. F. Stroud, Merchantville, N. J.

**Black and White Langshans** Best winter layers. Standard bred with strong utility qualities. 17 first and second prizes won this season. GEO. P. COFFIN, Freeport, Maine.

**A HUNDRED PER CENT** of the fertile eggs, is not an unusual hatch for the **MONITOR INCUBATOR.** Proof of this and many other things of unquestioned value to the poultry man will be found in our 80 page catalogue. Sent for 4 cents in stamps. Address, **THE MONITOR CO., Box 10, Moodus, Conn.**



Green cut bone is a raw meat ration. It is cheap; it is beneficial in many ways both as a food and tonic, says *Country Gentleman*. It is easily obtained and easily fed, and is a paying investment. Judicious feeding has become today the most important consideration in hennedom, says E. O. Roessle, in *Country Gentleman*. Its good effect means a satisfactory season, and its bad effects mean discouragement and loss of interest.

Kaffir corn is a grain that should receive more attention from poultrymen. While its nutritive value is about the same as that of Indian corn, it is relished much better by fowls and seems to produce more eggs, is another conclusion by Mr. Keyser.

Don't discard corn entirely, nor use corn only, but feed with it vegetables, meat, cut bone, clover hay, etc., says *Indiana Farmer*. If your hens are too fat lessen the quantity of corn until you get just enough to keep them in a good thrifty condition.

Hungry birds should never be allowed to fill their crops with boiled potatoes, says *Farm Journal*. Give a little grain first, or mash the potatoes and mix with bran. Feed potatoes warm. Disregard of these precautions may cause indigestion and other ills among the flock.

Green bones—that is, fresh from the butcher—cannot be surpassed as poultry food, says P. H. Jacobs. They are easily procured, are much cheaper than meat, contain a larger proportion of the elements that enter into the composition of eggs than any other material, as they are more concentrated.

F. L. Hooper, in *Poultry Keeper*, gives this strong endorsement of linseed meal: "Make use of a liberal supply of this wonderful egg producer, muscle grower, bone maker, flesh former, health promoter and digester, and a preventative of roup, indigestion, and many other disorders of the fowl family."

E. O. Roessle says: "What hens require principally is a balanced ration and a general, regular feed. A feast one day and a famine the next will upset the best flock of layers ever gotten together. Once a flock can be kept in a prime condition on a certain feed formulae, it is great folly to change."

A. C. Hawkins says the morning mash should consist of 1-3 wheat middlings or bran, 1-6 ground oats, 1-6 cornmeal, 1-6 ground meat or fish, and 1-6 cooked vegetables. This mash should be mixed with boiling water or skim milk the night before feeding, and allowed to soak and steam till morning, when it may be given warm.

L. E. Keyser says he finds buckwheat one of the best whole grain foods for hens. They never become cloyed on it, and it is a great egg-producing grain. In experiments made in feeding during the past winter, where the evening feed had been wholly of corn, he found that the substitution of buckwheat materially increased the egg yield.

A correspondent in *Reliable Poultry Journal* says: "In systematic, scientific and economical feeding lies the

profit in the poultry business, whether we are feeding for meat or eggs. To produce a ration that will carry a flock through the year, and at the smallest possible expense, requires considerable study, and very few there are who know just what the food consumed by their flock has really cost, or what its nutritive value has been."

The *Texas Farmer* tried an experiment: Of two lots of chickens of the same breed, of the same parent stock, and of the same age, running on the same blue grass pasture, one lot was fed on cut bone three times a week, and the other was not. Those fed on bone grew faster, developed more rapidly, and in every way were superior to those which were not. Green cut bone was found to have a decided tendency to develop combs and wattles, and make handsome birds.

Some years back P. H. Jacobs, in *Poultry Keeper*, scouted the idea that oyster shell furnished lime for the manufacture of egg shells. Then Prof. Wheeler, of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, made a series of experiments and concluded: "One pound of oyster shell will contain lime enough for the shells of about 7 dozen eggs." Mr. Jacobs at once bowed to Prof. Wheeler, acknowledging that his experiments were conclusive. And now, six years afterwards, *Poultry Keeper* for September, 1898, again attacks oyster shell in the same strain. Oh, Jacobs! Jacobs! Jacobs!

D. W., Englewood, N. J., writes: "I ask your attention to an article in *Poultry Keeper* on clover as a special food, in which the writer recommends to feed cut, steamed clover hay, mixed with a little grain twice a day. Would you please give us in your next issue of A FEW HENS your views, as well as your method of mixing it?" We feed one part bran, one part mixed ground grain, (cornmeal, middlings and sometimes ground oats), and one part scalded clover hay or clover meal. Clover is bulky, and should be in the daily ration, especially during winter. We feed it once a day in the morning mash.

#### Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

*Scaly-leg Treatment—Another Case of Overfat—Gape Origin—Cleanliness More Necessary than Ventilation—Lice Remedies—Indigestion—Treatment for Diarrhoea—Roup—Canker—Pointers on Prevention.*

Clean up daily.  
Breed for hardiness.  
Treat scaly legs now.  
Sickness knocks the profits.  
Moulting season is about over.  
Make a careful inspection daily.  
A mopish fowl is not a well one.  
Impure water is poison to the system.  
New blood strengthens the constitution.  
Doctor symptoms and diseases will never come.  
Overcrowding creates filth—filth creates disease.  
Exercise during moulting season lessens dangers.

Breed from your early-moulting hens if possible.

The young from overfat hens are weak and puny.

Outcrossing has built up many a broken-down strain.

Have the house as free from odor as your own living room.

No quarantine can stay the ravages that result from inexperience.

Keen observation will enable one to nip many ailments "in the bud."

Disinfect and whitewash the houses now before putting in the young stock.

Bacteria and germ troubles would be less talked about if a proper degree of cleanliness were observed, wisely says Judge Brown.

A cheap and effective lice remedy is said to be a pound of moth balls dissolved in a gallon of kerosene, and applied to the roosts once a month.

As a preventative for roup a little tincture of iron in the drinking water—about a tablespoonful to a half gallon of water—is said to be excellent.

In aggravated cases of diarrhoea, the *British Fancier* says two drops of chlorodyne should be given daily, which will usually put an end to the scouring.

**CUT CLOVER** in sacks. \$1.25 for 100 pounds. I. G. QUIRIN, Tioga Center, N. Y.

**AN UNPARALLELED RECORD.** At America's greatest show, New York, '98, also at Boston, this season. At the latter show, on two entries of Turkeys, won two 1sts, and \$10 special for best pr. At New York, on four entries, won four 1sts. Eggs for hatching from this stock, 40c. each. Best strains of Pekin, Aylesbury and Muscovy Ducks, Toulouse and African Geese, Ind. Games, L. Brahmas, B. and W. P. Rocks, Wh. and S. L. Wyand., Wh., Brown and Buff Leghorns, Black Minorcas, White and Pearl Guineas. Write for 32-page catalogue, free. Choice Stock for sale. "Agent for Lee's Lice Killer."

D. A. MOUNT,

PINE TREE FARM, JAMESBURG, N. J.

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Blue and Red Ribbons.  
Diplomas and Sweepstakes.

Our 1898 catalogue tells you all about the world's greatest Incubators and Brooders. Send for one. All machines warranted.

**PRAIRIE STATE  
INCUBATOR CO.,**  
HOMER CITY, PA.

#### Fine Brahma Hens.

A Few Fine Yearling Light Brahma Hens for Sale at \$2.00 each. (Felch strain).

Michael K. Boyer, Hammononton, Atlantic Co., N. J.

**TEN** of my cockerels just ordered by one party for breeding. He knows what kind of stock I have. Write your wants in **W. P. Rock** or **S. C. Brown Leghorn cockerels.**  
A. E. HUTCHINSON, Gilead, Conn.

*Farm and Fireside* says snow water will reduce flesh as rapidly as a sharp attack of diarrhoea. It might be well to "study that by heart" so as not to forget it when snow comes.

There are three kinds of indigestion in poultry, says the *Farmers' Voice*. One affects the stomach or bowels back of the gizzard; another acts on the gizzard, and the third is located in the crop.

For a bad case of canker the *Ohio Poultry Journal* advises using yellow rod (Golden seal) and burnt alum, equal parts; reduce to a powder, and sprinkle well their throats three or four times a day. This will remove the canker in a day or two.

About the time the yellow fever germ is discovered we will, perhaps, begin to learn something of the gape origin, says *Ohio Poultry Journal*. But wild guesses and theories on this subject will continue because it is human nature to speculate on the unknowable and incomprehensible.

A writer in *Agricultural Epitomist* uses sassafras poles for roosts in his hen house. He cuts them green and leaves the bark on. He renews these poles every spring. For fowls and nests he gets the bark from sassafras root, dry, and grinds to powder in a coffee mill. This he applies the same as insect powder.

Don't worry so much about ventilation, but pay more attention to cleanliness, says editor Brown. A clean hen house in winter does not need ventilation of any account. Accumulated filth in a hen house cannot remove the danger that constantly threatens, no matter if there is ventilation enough to endanger giving roup to all the fowls.

For a bad case of roup, a piece of blue vitrol, about the size of a hazelnut, dissolved in a quart of water, to which is added 10 drops of carbolic acid and a half teaspoonful of coal oil, is recommended. Keep this drink before them until cured. Feed them corn once a day, soaked in coal oil, and keep them in a warm place.

It don't take an expert to diagnose this complaint sent by a Kentucky reader of A FEW HENS: "Will you kindly tell me what to do for my chickens? They go to roost seemingly well. Next morning they will be on the ground, unable to get up. They have free range, and are fed on corn and cornmeal." Stop the corn feeding, as the hens are too fat.

"Jacobs thinks that 'if roup can be cured at all it can be done in summer.' Certainly; but the *if* is in the way. The most cases of roup we ever had in our flocks was in the summer and none of the birds were cured. That little *if* is a great stumbling block to us all." —*Fanciers' Review*. It cannot be that Davis wrote that, for he declares in his writing that there are no diseases. Think of Davis's hygienic chickens having the *roup*! Oh, there must be some mistake.

Editor Drevensstedt says that when diarrhoea is first discovered, in the majority of cases boiled rice and milk will effect a cure. But where stubborn or neglected cases are met with, no quicker, safer or better remedy than

the *Sun* cholera mixture exists. This famous remedy can be procured at any drug store, whether in liquid or tablet form, full directions usually accompanying each bottle or box. One tablet in the morning and one in the evening is usually efficient. Ground nutmeg is another simple and powerful remedy, but the after effects are not always as satisfactory as with the *Sun* cholera mixture.

*Texas Farm and Ranch* gives this method of treating scaly-legged fowls: Take a quart can full of lard, coal oil and crude carbolic acid, and set the can in an old bucket, piling hot ashes and some coals around it. Then, with a swab made by wrapping rags on the end of a stick, proceed to the hen-house, and holding each perch over the bucket, sliding it along as you grease, completely fill every crack and crevice with the mixture. The lard cools rapidly, leaving the perch very greasy, and the legs of the fowls roosting on such perches look very bright and clean. It serves a two-fold purpose, ridding the perches of lice and preventing scaly legs.

### Our Brevity Symposium.

*Treatment for Chicks That Droop From Rapid Growth of Wing Feathers—Feeding Broilers from a Day Old Until Ready for Market.*

### DROOPING WINGS IN CHICKS.

*As the wings of the chicks of Leghorns, Minorcas, and that class, grow so rapidly as to cause chicks to droop, what method do you use to prevent a loss?*

I pull the large wing feathers as soon as the chicks droop. —*F. Bause*, New Berlin, Pa.

I find the use of sweet milk the best preventative for drooping wings in chicks. Give milk instead of water to drink. —*Aug. D. Arnold*, Dillsburg, Pa.

We do not consider it necessary to clip the wings, as the chickens will do fully better without this. Where such a course is necessary the food ration is

usually at fault, or other conditions. —*Whiting Farm*, Holyoke, Mass.

When breeding Leghorns I had very little trouble of this kind, possibly on account of their having free range, a great variety of food, and the constant care of my wife. Leghorn breeders who have been troubled in this way, however, have told me that they completely cured it by clipping the ends of the wing feathers. —*C. E. White*, Fox Chase, Philadelphia, Pa.

As I said in an article in the *Ohio Poultry Journal*, most people believe that it is the wing feathers that grow too fast, or are abnormally developed. This is not it; the chick has not grown fast enough. Hence, anything that stunts the growth helps to develop this wing trouble, and in most cases it is a matter of the wrong kind of feed. Chicks from eggs laid by inbred or closely confined stock are apt to come that way. —*W. Theo. Wittman*, Allentown, Pa.

I never pay much attention to droopy winged chicks. I raise all my chicks in a brooder house, and have little or no trouble in growing them good and

### COBURN'S BARRED PLY-MOUTH ROCKS

#### and WHITE WYANDOTTES

Bred for utility and beauty combined. Young and old stock for sale that will give you good layers and table poultry. Circular free.

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#### 250 Pullets and 500 Cockerels

Must be sold at once.

18 varieties of chickens, ducks, guineas and turkeys. Have a Bronze turkey gobbler three years old (weight 50 pounds), for sale. Describe your wants and I will name you prices.

JAMES M. SMITH, P. O. Box 50, Perkiomenville, (Montgomery County), Penna.

### May Hatched Ducklings

from our best strain of improved Pekins, at \$1.50 each. Good breeding stock that will make 8 to 10 pounders. Remember our Pekins begin to lay in November and December, so get them early to be ready for business. They will lay more eggs than your best hens, and prove the most profitable of poultry. Try them, but be quick, or we may be sold out. Shipped at single express rates, and safe arrival guaranteed. Address,

MARYBROOK RANCH,  
J. MACFLICKINGER, Prop. Fannettsburg, Pa.

## Banner Egg Food and Tonic

is a necessity to every poultry keeper, for both large and small flocks.

As the winter approaches, the price of eggs increases, and this food if fed to your chickens in their morning mash, will almost double the egg yield, as everybody who has used it can tell you. Last season we sold over 5000 lbs., which proves that **Banner Egg Food and Tonic** is what it is represented to be—**The Best Egg Producer and Health Preserver Ever Sold**. Give it a trial and you will be convinced that what it has done for others it will certainly do for you.

Price one lb. can, 25c., five cans, \$1.00. One case, 24 one lb. cans, \$4.00. Sample can FREE.

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** For the month of November we will sell a 1 lb. can for 15c., or 7 cans for \$1.00. Orders booked in advance.

### Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co.,

W. V. RUSS, Proprietor. 28 Vesey St., New York City.

New York and Export Agents for the Prairie State Incubators and Brooders.

Send for our Illustrated Catalogue FREE.

vigorous. I think that droopy chicks are caused by vermin, when they are raised by hens which are not sufficiently looked after, or by some similar cause which saps their young strength. When neglected to such an extent I would let them go, and start over. To get good birds, grow them from start to finish, and don't let them get droopy. You can do it if you will.—*Ezra Cornell, Ithaca, N. Y.*

I cut—never pull—the wing feathers and tail of breeds mentioned. I cut them before they droop, as you know it is easier to prevent than to cure. If you pull them you might injure the socket where the feather grows. A new feather will grow in the socket, but it will generally be without color. Nature seems to say it is hard work to grow a feather after such treatment, without putting in the color. When out on a perfect run it is not necessary at all times. You must judge by body growth.—*W. W. Kulp, Pottstown, Pa.*

We make it a practice to clip off the ends of the flight feathers on all chicks when they are about ten days old, and think it is a great help in a general way, for it retards the growth of the wings. However, if the wings grow faster than balance of the chick, there is always a cause. The three principal causes of the trouble are, 1st, their feed; 2d, improper heat or exposure; 3d, lack of exercise. With a close watch on these essential points, very little trouble will be found with the chick's wings.—*C. E. Howell, Elmira, N. Y.*

Feed often and regularly on nourishing food, not more than the chicks will eat readily. Accustom them to a variety of foods as early as possible. When chicks get weak I have found clear cornmeal, moistened with raw egg (just enough egg to make it crumbly) excellent to revive them, but think it would not be good for a steady food. I do not have any trouble with Minorca chicks getting weak if they are well fed, regularly. They grow rapidly, but are so hardy that they do not weaken like some other breeds. I think that when the wings of chicks outgrow some other parts of the body it indicates a state of partial starvation. Small chicks need more carbonaceous food to keep up warmth and vitality, than mature fowls, proportionally. Therefore one need not feed sparingly of cornmeal or cracked corn, but as I said before a mixed diet is needed.—*Geo. H. Northup, Raceville, N. Y.*

Is it the rapid growth of the wing feathers which causes the chick to droop? Is it not that the body fails to develop as it should? Don't you think there is something wrong in the management that produces such forlorn specimens of chickhood, as your question calls to mind? Some people clip their wings. Why? I cannot imagine. If they are too heavy for their owners to carry around in their normal position, the best plan in my opinion is to dispose of the chickens; they won't amount to much if they do live to maturity. Compare that chick whose wings hang loosely at its side, with one who carries them folded close to

its body. Take them in your hands, notice the difference in the weight, feel how sharp and bony is the breast of one, and how plump the other. Look at their legs—it will take both of the one to equal in size the strong, thick shank of the other. How weak the bird is; it scarcely moves when you grasp it. And the other: Why you can feel every muscle struggling in your hands. It is full of life and strength. Give them their liberty: The droopy one goes a little way and stands exhausted. Those dreadful wings seem to bear him down to the ground. The other chick darts from your hands the moment you relax your hold, and flies from the restraint which was so hateful to his vigorous little body. Don't you think it would be cruel to prolong the existence of a chick so puny that it can't sustain the weight of its own feathers? It certainly won't pay to raise it.—*Anon.*

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#### FEEDING BROILERS.

*What food do you find best for broilers from one day old to market age, and how often do you feed per day?*

Feed five times at start; later three times.—*W. R. Curtiss & Co., Ransomville, N. Y.*

I find that there are less losses when fed on dry feed, but I like a variety, say cracked wheat, cracked corn, and cracked oats, or hulled oats. But when it comes to fattening, I like scalded feed.—*J. H. Seely, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.*

I keep fine grit and oyster shell on the brooder floor. The feed for the first 10 days are equal parts bread crumbs, bran, rolled oats and millet seed. After 10 days equal parts cornmeal,

bran and sifted oat feed, and five per cent meat meal.—*F. Bause, New Berlin, Pa.*

When obtainable, I use stale baker's bread, moistened in milk, for the first week or two. Then gradually change to cornmeal, wheat bran, ground oats, equal parts, and 10 per cent of ground meat, moistened to a crumbly mass; with cracked corn, wheat, etc., once or twice a day. I begin by feeding about every two hours, or even less, and feed five times a day until ready for market.—*J. E. Stevenson, Columbus, N. J.*

I start all my chicks on rolled oats, dry, and when they are a week old I give them a mash made of American Poultry Food, clover meal and animal meal. I feed five times a day at first, quantity only such as they will clean up promptly, gradually decreasing the number of times I feed, as they grow older. I add powdered charcoal to the mash twice a week, and keep grit and water at hand all the time.—*Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Pa.*

The first three days stale bread soaked in milk and squeezed dry is kept before them. Commence on the fourth day to feed one part each of meal, bran, brown middlings, western ground oats. Thoroughly scalded, and fed four times a day until two weeks old.

**BUFF PLYMOUTH ROCKS** exclusively. Utility and Beauty combined. Choice young stock for sale. One cock (1 year), \$5.00. We also have ten cockerels which have little too much black in wing and tail, at \$1 each if taken at once. Will make good breeders, weigh over 5 lbs. If better birds wanted write for prices. Ford Bros., Oak Hill, N. Y.

**WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS** Exclusively. Stock and Eggs for sale at reasonable prices. HANCOCK & CHILD, Salem, N. J.



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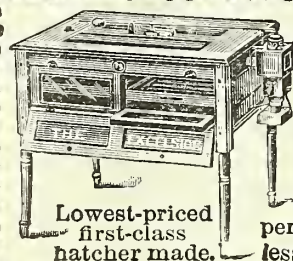
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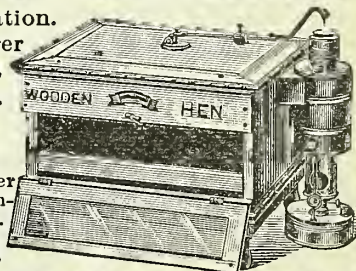
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the most efficient incubator for raising poultry on a small scale ever invented. A perfect hatcher—automatic, self-regulating, thoroughly constructed, fully guaranteed. 50 egg capacity. Catalogs free.

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## BIG MONEY IN EGGS

if you can only get enough of them at the lowest cost. **GREEN CUT BONE** solves the problem. It doubles the egg product. It makes hens lay in the dead of winter when eggs are worth money. It keeps the hen laying. It makes chicks grow fast and mature early, and makes early layers of the pullets.

## MANN'S NEW BONE CUTTERS

prepare bone in the best way. Cut fast, run easy, last long. Mann's Clover Cutters, Granite Crystal Grit and Swinging Feed Trays are all necessary to highest success. Cash or installments. Illustrated catalogue sent Free.

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JOSEPH BRECK & SONS, are our Boston Jobbers.

Then to above mixture I add a part each of cut clover and meat meal, up to 8 weeks of age. Then leave out the bran, and make it two parts cornmeal, and in place of oats add cotton seed meal, until the chicks are ten weeks old. I keep before them charcoal and grit, or mix it with the mash. The last week I salt the mash a little more to my taste.—*Wm. H. Jones, Lincoln University, Pa.*

The first day I give nothing but wheat bran to peck at. The next day I feed rolled oats, and continue to feed it until the chicks are 10 days old, keeping dry bran, charcoal and fine oyster shell by them all the time. I feed every two hours, just what they will eat up clean. After 10 days I feed a moist mash in the morning and evening, composed of cornmeal, middlings, bran, and ground corn and oats, with meat scraps in proportion to the age of the chicks. At noon I feed wheat or cracked corn, and keep green stuff by them so they can eat all they want until the last two weeks. Then they are fed all the celery they can eat. On this diet they thrive well, and in 8 or 10 weeks you will have fine broilers, weighing from one and a half to two pounds a piece.—*Geo. G. Harley, Hammon, N. J.*

I will have to repeat part of an article I wrote for the *May Poultry Keeper*. If chickens, or eggs as you may want it, are incubated properly, there is little difference how or what they are fed; they will grow, all things properly considered. If they are improperly incubated the devil himself, or any other judicial person, cannot raise them. Try it, if you don't believe it. Now why do I say this? Because I have found there is a great difference. If carbonic acid gas is allowed to remain in an incubator, and the eggs are allowed to float in this foul air for three weeks, what is to hinder the chicks from being poisoned? This is the cause of the thousands of chicks that die, and people think it is the feed. Remove the difficulty in the start, and you will raise most all your chickens, regardless of your feeding. Of course, feed with some reason. Always be careful not to feed too much. In my eight years experience I have spent over \$3,000 in experimenting on feeding little chicks, and could not succeed until I turned my attention to the incubator, and there I found my trouble. Some scientific persons advocate a theory about carbonic acid gas, yet this is only a theory. All theories won't demonstrate practical facts. By removing this gas your chicks will be healthy, and can be easily raised regardless of feed. You ask how is the best way to feed little chicks? When properly hatched I feed rolled oats for three days. After that I feed a little cooked feed to commence on, and gradually increase the amount until they will take all cooked feed. My cooked feed is bran, cornmeal, meat meal and clover hay. I say cooked, but it is only steamed. I have a tank connected with my brooder stove, and through this the water circulates, the same as in the brooder. The feed fed in the morning remains

in the cooker over night, and that fed at night remains in all day. Not being able to generate much heat in a brood-stove, it takes about 12 hours to cook the feed.—*W. M. Rand, Franklin, Ind.*

I feed steel-cut oatmeal, B grade, scattered in cut clover hay, as soon as the chicks appear hungry, about a teaspoonful to 15 chicks, fed about every two hours. When three days old I alternate with bread crumbs, not moistened. The room where the meal is kept is infested with cockroaches, and my little boy sets traps for them, feeding them alive (the hen kills them). These are evidently considered a great delicacy. They certainly promote quick growth. When a week old whole wheat is given once a day, scattered in the hay. Sometimes cracked corn is fed, when I add grit. The latter is not really needed at first, both wheat and oatmeal being so softened in the crop, by the digestive juices, as to need little or no trituration in the gizzard. Corn, however, requires it. Up to this age the chicks and their mother have been kept in a large box in a sunny window of a warm room (if hatched early). They are then removed to a warm coop, placed on a little knoll in a sunny corner of a yard where rye has been sown sometime before freezing weather set in. I haven't any grass, but generally manage to procure some nice tender blades and fresh green clover for them every day, after a week old; they also eat some of the rye. I sow clover seed as soon as the ground cracks, and they eat the first leaves that make their appearance. When ten days old I prepare a mash of clover hay, oatmeal and bran for their breakfast, giving not quite as much as they would eat. Clean water is always before them from the first day. A handful of wheat or rye is scattered around in the growing rye, to keep them busy. I find in one of my books this bill of fare for chicks two months old: At 6.30 a. m., cracked corn (well scattered); 8.30 a. m., mash—clover hay, bran, oat and cornmeal; 9 a. m., cut clover and grass; 12 m., oats or cracked corn; 3 p. m., scalded oatmeal (fed warm); 4 p. m., wheat (scattered); 6 p. m., oatmeal, dry (all they can eat). At three months feed mash in morning; green clover 9 a. m.; oats, cracked corn or wheat at noon; scalded oatmeal at 4; and all three grains at night. Range limited. Cockerels crowing at 10 weeks; weighed 2 lbs., dressed, at 12 weeks.—*Anon.*

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#### NEW SYMPOSIUM QUESTIONS.

We ask our readers the following questions. Send in replies as promptly as possible:

18. Does the deep keel in ducks really increase the quantity of meat in the carcass, or is it nothing more than a cony protuberance?
19. What method do you adopt to reduce surplus fat in your breeding stock?

#### Double Thick Tarred Roofing

75 cents per roll of 108 sq. ft. 2-ply \$1.00, 3-ply \$1.25. We have over 20 kinds of Roofing and Sheathings. Write how much you want and get prices. Freight paid. JAS. S. CASE, Box 407, Colchester, Conn.

# Hens lay eggs

when fed with the things eggs are made of. Eggs are principally albumen, produced by the hens from the protein they absorb from their food.

Bowker's Animal Meal gives the hen more protein and other egg-making material than any other similar food. Always sold in yellow bags and yellow packages.

For sale by dealers and by the manufacturers. Large package 25 cts. Pamphlet free.

**The  
BOWKER  
Company**  
43 Chatham St., Boston.

## FOR SALE!

Seven second hand "Peep-O-Day" Brooders at \$8.00 each. Two new ones at \$10.00 each.  
CHARLES C. RYDER, Cummaquid, Mass.

## Closing Out Sale

### NIAGARA FARM.

Well-bred Mammoth Pekin Ducks and Pure White Wyandottes, exclusively. A few Cockerels and Ducks at \$1.00 to \$2.00 each. Belgian Hares \$1.00 each. We offer our entire stock of S. C. White Leghorns, Light Brahmas, White Embden Geese, White Holland Turkeys, White Indian Games, at \$1.00 to \$3.00 each. Green Cut Clover ready for use, \$1.25 per 100 lbs. Prairie State Brooder, complete, \$20.00.

W. R. CURTISS & CO.,

(Circular).

Ransomville, N. Y.

## "Best Liver Pill Made." Parsons' Pills

Positively cure biliousness and sick headache, liver and bowel complaints. They expel all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cts.; five \$1.00. Pamphlet free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston.

**ORR'S CLEAR GRIT** 500 lbs. \$3.00  
100 lbs. 75c.  
Crushed Oyster Shells, 500 lbs. \$3; 100 lbs. 75c. Cut Clover, (best cured) 100 lbs. \$2; 50 lbs. \$1.00. Meat and Bone Meal, 100 lbs. \$2.00; 50 lbs. \$1.10. Orr's Egg Producer, (a mixed grain and meat food) 100 lbs. \$1.50. **POULTRY SUPPLIES OF ALL KINDS.** Ask for prices of what you want. White Crested Black and Buff Laced Polish, White Indian Games, White Wyandottes, Indian Runner Ducks, The Leghorns of the duck family, White Cochins, Dantams. Send for circulars. I can save you money on every order.  
**D. LINCOLN ORR, ORR'S MILLS, N. Y.**

# A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

Sample Copy Free.

Price, Monthly Three Cents.

By the Year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.,

PUBLISHERS.

## ADVERTISING RATE:

The rate per agate line is 15 cents each insertion; or 10 cents per line if order is for six months or more. About seven ordinary words make one line. There is fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

Entered at the Post-Office at Boston, Mass., as second-class matter, by I. S. Johnson & Co., Publishers, 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

## EDITORIAL.

**Sixteen Pages!** As A FEW HENS bows to its readers this month, it must beg pardon if, in its joy, it may raise a regular "college yell." The truth is, we are as proud of the success of our venture as a boy is with his first pair of boots. Sixteen pages—

**And Only a Little Over a Year Old!** But this is not a permanent enlargement—at least not just yet.

It is made to accommodate the big rush of advertising. But we will continue our present size just so long as the advertising demands it.

You see, our first aim is to present about the same amount of reading matter each month, and we will go back to the twelve pages again just as soon as the transient advertising contracts run out.

**40,000 or 50,000 Circulation.** It is really surprising to see how the subscriptions roll in. A sample copy almost invariably brings a subscription. That has been our experience ever since the first number was sent out. And now to run up the actual paid subscription list larger than any other poultry publication, we will print not less than 40,000 copies—probably 50,000 copies—of our December issue. You will want to send in your advertisements early for that number, for there will be a big rush. We are going to keep on pushing hard—by making each number better, and by getting out big editions to send broadcast over the country. A FEW HENS subscribers are located not only in every State and section of the Union, but in all the foreign countries where poultry culture is recognized. Those who laughed at our humble efforts as we branched out a little over a year ago—are already looking very solemn. We want them to join us in

Why not share each others joys? Why not rejoice at prosperity no matter where it strikes? Selfishness will never build up good times. A FEW HENS is a business concern—strictly business. We are at your service—and in "that college yell," if you are with us, we will tell our thousands and tens of thousands of readers what you have to sell.

"My Advertising in A FEW HENS is Paying Me."

volumes. What more can be asked? What more can be done by any paper? And here is C. Gross, Bebra, Mo., who has been in our advertising columns almost from the first, who says

It is a fact that A FEW HENS has opened the eyes of many who considered it "thin ice."

"A FEW HENS is a Business Getter."

We aim to make business for those who advertise with us. The breeder of thoroughbred stock will find ready customers in our family. Our readers buy fowls like the farmer buys cows. The farmer wants a milk record in preference to high scores; our poultrymen want eggs instead of fancy points. Both the farmer and our poultrymen want thoroughbreds, but they have no use for such poultry as are a mere show with nothing practical to recommend them.

A FEW HENS calls attention to the present large advertising patronage it enjoys. As nearly all those who advertised last year are with us again, it proves that we are publishing a medium that is

Here is another case in point: It comes just as we are writing this talk—and it comes from that well-known and reliable concern, W. R. Curtiss & Co., proprietors of Niagara Farm, Ransomville, N. Y.:

"Sold 100 Birds to one Party Through A FEW HENS. She is all right."

Messrs Curtiss have been advertisers with us almost from the start, and the first month they advertised they realized enough to pay for six months space. Each issue our circulation increases. New subscribers are coming in every day, and renewals are promptly made. A FEW HENS holds its old subscribers. They cannot afford to drop it from their list. This is no idle talk—they tell us so. Every month we give a list of the strongest kind of testimonials—and they are all fresh—and we don't need to republish old ones to keep up the list.

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We have room for but a few testimonials this month, but what we do publish show in what high esteem A FEW HENS is held by its subscribers:

Walter P. Laird, Virginia, writes: "Am just in receipt of A FEW HENS. It is chuckful of good, hard, practical experience, and really contains more hard sense than the half dozen poultry journals I take."

N. E. Barton, New York, writes: "A FEW HENS is the best poultry paper I take. It is meat from the first page to the last, and is eagerly looked for each month."

Mrs. A. C. Moore, Texas, writes: "I am a subscriber to your most valuable paper, and though I keep but 'a few hens' I find great help from your journal. I also take ———, but do not like it so well as A FEW HENS. All of us poultry people are not posted in *latin*,

but we know lice from mites. I hope you may long be spared to edit that valuable little paper."

W. W. Tuttle, Maine, writes: "I have taken your valuable paper ever since the first issue, and consider it the best poultry paper published for the money."

Mrs. A. J. Clark, New Hampshire, writes: "We study A FEW HENS thoroughly every month, and claim it stands next to *Farm-Poultry*—usually even better." That testimonial answers Mr. Hunter's query which paper "comes within gun shot" of *Farm-Poultry*.

R. H. Young, Kentucky, writes: "I have been taking your paper A FEW HENS, for about a year. I do not want to miss a single number as they are worth their weight in gold. I consider it the best poultry paper published."

W. J. Birdsall, New Jersey, writes: "My wife and I have become very much interested in A FEW HENS, as we are constantly finding new points whereby we are helped in the care of our chickens. We wish you success in placing your paper in the hands of all who raise chickens, whether for pleasure or profit."

Aug. D. Arnold, importer, exporter and breeder of high-class Buff Leghorns, Dillsburg, Pa., writes: "I think your A FEW HENS a grand journal in its line, and more general information, useful to the fancier and business breeder, can be found in a single number than in a dozen numbers of the average poultry journal."

L. W. Barber, of the Standard Car Truck Co., Chicago, Ills., writes: "A FEW HENS contains more solid, commonsense reading matter to the square inch than any other paper published."

Thos. Wilson, Massachusetts, in presenting a year's subscription to A FEW HENS, to a friend writes: "Mr. Johnson is a busy man, and your paper will just suit him, as it goes straight to the point."

Robt. A. Hollingsworth, Maryland, writes: "I think A FEW HENS is just the thing, as I am heartily tired of reading poultry papers which devote almost their entire space to birds that score so many points, and usually lay so few eggs. I think practical poultry keeping is the kind that lasts."

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A fancier writes us that when he saw the first issue of A FEW HENS, this notice caught his eye:

"A FEW HENS believes in thoroughbred stock and strictly first-class crosses. It does not favor high-class Standard-bred birds for utility. It will not devote any of its columns to the fancy, leaving that for journals better adapted for that work."

He had intended advertising with us, but that notice gave him the impression that the paper was to be devoted to common hens.

There is nothing in that clipping that should lead any one to believe that A FEW HENS intended booming mongrelism. It plainly says we believe in *thoroughbred stock*. It also says that we believe in *strictly first-class crosses*, which means a crossing of two distinct families of thoroughbreds. The clipping says "it does not favor high-class Standard-bred birds for utility," and it

does not. Many, very many of the fanciers are compelled to mate birds that will come nearest the Standard requirements, in order to gain the "desirable points." In order to obtain these "points" never for a moment is the matter of her laying taken into consideration. It is the Standard markings that they are after, and not "of what value are they for eggs."

A hen, for instance, can be strictly thoroughbred, and yet if it has a disqualification (no matter how slight) it will lose its bearing as a *Standard-bred*—and yet that bird may be the best layer in the flock. Is that hen to be discarded for that mishap? Fanciers say *Yes*; we say *No*. We want utility to take the first seat, and fancy the next, and that is what thoroughbred poultry in the future will be.

\* \* \*

Capt. Wm. C. Casey, proprietor of the Aratoma Farm, Katonah, N. Y., is starting "an endless chain" for A FEW HENS. In other words, he subscribed for A FEW HENS, and then he passed his copy to another gentleman with a request to subscribe, and that gentleman told another, and so on we expect it to go, until there will be "an endless chain" of subscribers all coming from the Captain's first subscription. "Do you see what I am doing for you," the Captain writes. We do, and we see an endless amount of good that will come from that "endless chain." Now here is a hint. Cannot our subscribers, each and every one of them start up similar "endless chains"? We want to make A FEW HENS second to none, and we want to have the largest subscription list, and such work by our friends will do it. Here is an extract from the letter that started Capt. Casey's novel work:

"My Dear Capt. Casey: Thank you very much for this sample copy of A FEW HENS. I am sending my subscription at once, and I shall pass this copy on."

\* \* \*

To tell of the well-known commission firm of W. H. Rudd, Son & Co., of Boston, or of the famous Orrocco Farm of W. H. Rudd & Son, So. Natick, Mass., is very much like heralding news already known. But in our notings of poultry firms and the work they are doing, we would have these sketches incomplete did we not give a few lines to these well-known institutions. While living in New England, we more than once enjoyed the pleasure of inspecting the Orrocco Farm, its stock, and its polite and business-like proprietors. And while in Boston enjoyed a treat of looking through the various departments in their commission house. The senior member of this firm has for years been closely identified with poultry work. Without a doubt, he is one of the leaders in poultry knowledge, and it certainly does not elevate those who sneeringly make jest of the wise sayings of Wm. H. Rudd, in his interesting Orrocco Papers. We might here say that the 27th Annual Circular of this firm gives about all that can be said concerning the poultry farm and the commission house. On page 61 of the Circular is a good representation of their Boston store, which is on the lower

floor of the Eastern Cold Storage Co.'s plant. We would advise A FEW HENS readers to send to W. H. Rudd & Son, 40 North St., Boston, Mass., for this circular. It will be sent for a two cent stamp, if the sender mentions that he saw the notice in A FEW HENS. It is a complete book, and its entire 80 pages are replete with interesting and valuable information. Send for it.

\* \* \*

The first five dollars Geo. H. Northup, Raceville, Washington county, New York, ever possessed, was earned by himself working on a farm for a neighbor when a boy. He invested the whole amount in a thoroughbred hen and her brood of young chicks, which were about three days old at the time. They were Games, the only variety of thoroughbreds of which he then knew. He made the venture profitable and enjoyed it, and afterwards changed from that variety to others as he became acquainted with new ones, till he had bred twenty-two different varieties. In 1885 he had so far succeeded that he felt safe in offering his stock for sale through the advertising columns of the poultry journals. In 1886 and 1887, he imported 19 fine Black Minorcas from England. He was then hiring the place on which he kept them. Since that time he devoted most of his time to Minorcas, and they have been his main source of income, and have enabled him, together with his own efforts, to own one of the best equipped poultry farms of 100 acres in the United States, and some money beside. Northup's Minorcas are well known in nearly all parts of the globe. During the month of September just passed, he received four foreign orders as follows: One for South America, one for South Africa, and two for Bermuda. During the past ten years he has acted as judge at many exhibitions, giving the best of satisfaction. Mr. Northup has also originated the Rose Comb Black Minorcas, which are meeting with popular favor. Northup's Minorcas are advertised in A FEW HENS, and we would call our readers' attention to the same. To get a full

account of the stock, and the extensive farm, Mr. Northup will send his complete catalogue to all who will apply and mention that they saw this notice in A FEW HENS.

\* \* \*

W. M. Rand, Franklin, Indiana, writes A FEW HENS that his plant has not increased materially since he started, but his experience increased wonderfully. He says: "I have been in the business for eight years, and am still in it to stay. The reason I have not increased my capacity is my location is so situated that it cannot well be done, and then I have some other business that takes part of my time. Another thing I have considered is that I have never had an idea of raising all of the broilers in these United States, therefore have been contented with what I have. Since I have started I have seen a number of these large establishments close up. In this county alone there have been over 50

### Six Buff Leghorn Cockerels

at \$1.50 each. Three pullets, one cockerel, Buff Plymouth Rocks for \$7.00. Address, P. T. HOAGLAND, Oak Hill, N. Y.

### \$2.10 per Head Profit.

Our White Wyandotte record from January to July, for eggs alone. Young cockerels for sale at \$2.00 each. MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammonton, Atlantic Co., N. J.



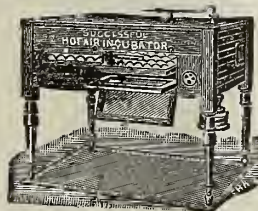
**THE WINTER LAYER**

will need a stimulant when the weather gets cold and everything is covered with snow. The very best stimulant known for egg production is

**Pioneer Clover Meal**

It is finely ground clover hay which has been carefully cured so as to preserve its natural green color and aroma. It is ground by our special made machinery and packed in new sacks. Prices, 50 lbs. \$1.00; 100 lbs. \$2.00; 5 lbs. 25c. Send for FREE sample book; endorsed by all leading poultry editors.

**THE BENNETT & MILLETT COMPANY,**  
Box H, Gouverneur, N. Y.



"SUCCESSFUL"

### MONEY MAKERS ARE FOUND IN

## GOOD INCUBATORS AND BROODERS

We manufacture a greater variety of standard machines than any other incubator firm. Capacity, 50 to 800 eggs; price, \$8.50 to \$68. Over 1,000,000 chickens hatched by our incubators last season. Send 6c. for 148-page catalog. Tells how to raise poultry and contains designs for poultry houses and other useful hints to the poultryman.

**DES MOINES INCUBATOR CO., Box 423, Des Moines, Ia.**



## EVANS VEGETABLE AND ROOT CUTTERS

Hens consume large quantities of grass and other green food when they can get it. They can't get it in the winter when every green thing is frozen up. Our Vegetable and Root Cutter supplies these deficiencies. It cuts all kinds of roots and vegetables—beets, carrots, turnips, cabbage, potatoes, etc., into fine pieces like angle worms. All fowls, big and little, eat them easily and greedily and thrive upon them. They double the egg crop and make hens lay in the middle of winter when eggs are worth the most money. Feeding roots thus prepared saves 50% of the grain feed. They turn easy, cut fast and last indefinitely. One will pay for itself quickly in the increase of eggs it will produce. Made in four sizes. Price, \$1. and up. Leading poultrymen and editors endorse it. Circulars free.

**EVANS MANUFACTURING CO. Dept. R, Ypsilanti, Mich.**

persons who started in the chicken business, and all have pulled in their checks—and all in the last eight years—and I am standing firm and all alone.” Mr. Rand claims that the failure of so many beginners is mainly due to either having poor incubators or brooders, or not managing the machines properly. Although not an extensive broiler raiser, Mr. Rand is known to poultrymen as a practical and successful one.

\* \* \*

L. W. Barber, Chicago, Ills., sends A FEW HENS some excellent pointers on roosts and lice and mites, which are worth careful study. He writes: “Why do poultry writers recommend it—a 2x3 scantling for hen roosts, when a 1x3 piece will answer every purpose, to my notion, if the roosts are not over 6 or 7 feet long, as was the case in your new poultry house, as described in February issue of A FEW HENS. My roosts when not over 7 feet, are made of full inch material, with both sides and edges dressed, and all corners slightly rounded, so if in case of a slimsy piece it can occasionally be turned over to prevent sagging. I figure that a good stiff 2x3 scantling, 6 feet long, would hold the united weight of 100 hens or more, if distributed on the roost as would be the case if that number of fowls were actually roosting on it. A piece 1x3, full inch thick, would hold up one-third this amount under the same conditions. So why use this surplus material when unnecessary? It is not only a waste of material, which means money, but the inconvenience of handling when cleaning for vermin. The 1x3 material answers every purpose for me, but some one may be able to convince me that heavier is better. I am open for conviction.”

(We prefer 2x3 scantling as it is stronger, and gives a wider space for the fowl to rest its feet upon. To get the strength of a 1x3 or a 2x3 piece, it is necessary to have the one or the two inch side up for the fowls to roost upon. The 2-inch side then gives a better chance for the fowl to spread out its feet. If the 3-inch side is up for roosting upon, the roost will in time bend under the weight. We had that proved by an experiment the past year. So to get the greatest amount of strength and the most comfort we prefer the 2x3 scantling.—[Editor A F. H.]

Mr. Barber continues: “In this connection I would like to give my plan of keeping the fowls free from lice and mites, or those that occupy the roosting houses. In addition to the regular spring and fall whitewashing, and the free use of slaked lime under the roosts, I dip a sponge in kerosene and go over the roosts every week, top and bottom, sides and edges, soon as the fowls are off in the morning, giving the end of roost, where it rests in a notch in the cleft that is fastened to the side of the house, an extra dose, which is not relished by creeping things. Once or twice a month I take out the roosts, kerosene them and set on fire, which destroys all unborn vermin. My nest boxes are movable and are removed frequently, and the material for the nest burned under the box. I seldom look for vermin, but keep on doping just as though they were there in thousands,

which I believe is the only true way to keep them out. It is easier to keep them out of the houses than to get shut out of them when once in—and here lies the secret in a nut shell.”

\* \* \*

Dr. J. H. Casey, Kansas City, Mo., writes A FEW HENS as follows: “Poultry with me has a practical as well as a scientific aspect. There is no subject I have entered into or taken the interest in during my life, as poultry in all its bearings. To me it is a branch of commerce which to know is to recognize its great worth. It is a business which requires study, as much or more than any other. We are dealing with animal life and nature's laws, and we must know the latter to handle the former. Thus the business becomes a science, and by your experimenting you are demonstrating this very thing. While writing this I have just taken a subscription for A FEW HENS, and I think laid my wires for another. I never let a chance pass to say a good word for A FEW HENS. It's a dainty dish to regale myself with.”

\* \* \*

J. E. Stevenson, Columbus, N. J., writes A FEW HENS as follows: “It is universally accepted as a fact among all poultrymen, that poultry must have a variety of grain to do well, and the greater the variety the better. While this is true, the advent of the green bone cutter has changed matters to a certain extent, and we now find there is no absolute necessity for such a variety. In fact, I find I can get along much better now with corn alone as a grain food, and with the aid of my Mann Bone Cutter, and Mann Clover Meal, I can give my fowls a much better ration. It is one that gives me more profit than I have ever been able to secure in former years, with the greatest variety of grain I could possibly get together. The cut green bones and clover seem to come in perfectly with corn, making a well-balanced ration, and one that suits the taste and requirements of the fowls, as will be shown by their perfect health and the fullness of the egg basket; or the rapid growth when fed to young stock. I find in practical experience, that the supply of eggs is regulated largely by the cut bones and clover, falling off in

Buff Poultry Yards. Bargains in Buff Leghorns, Buff P. Rocks, Buff Wyandottes. Also first-class Houdans. Menzebach Bros., 531 Wash. St., Williamsport, Pa.

**BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS.** Six hens, one cock. Fine breeders; splendid health. Price \$8.00. L. G. ANDRUS, Elyria, Ohio.

## I. K. FELCH & SON,

Box K, Natick, Mass.

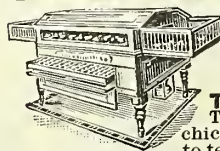
Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks, and White Wyandottes,

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—

Standard Points and Egg Records Combined.

Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

## THE HATCHING HEN



HAS LOST HER OCCUPATION and in the production and brooding of chicks she has been supplanted by the better and every way **RELIABLE INCUBATORS AND BROODERS** They Hatch and Brood when you are ready. They don't get lousy. They grow the strongest chicks and the most of them. It takes a 224 page book to tell about these machines and our Mammoth Reliable Incubator and Brooder Co., Quincy, Illinois.

able Poultry Farms, Sent by mail on receipt of 10 cents. Send for it now **Reliable Incubator and Brooder Co., Quincy, Illinois.**

number materially when I discontinue the use of the bones, and increasing in number soon after beginning to feed same again. I have tried this repeatedly with the same results, and practical experiments count more than quantities of theories. I get the best results from feeding the cut bone daily, all they will eat with a relish, which will be not far from a pound for 25 fowls. A great many do not use their bone cutters in warm weather on account of the difficulty of keeping the bones in good condition. If they will thoroughly cook the bones either before or after cutting, they will find they have an excellent food, much better than the commercial ground meats, and it will keep well so long as it is not kept in too large a bulk as to induce heating. It is a good plan to have some of this on hand at all times so that in case the supply of green bone should run short, you will not be compelled to omit this animal food, which should be fed regularly for best results. I find I can get nearly as large a number of eggs from the corn and bones, as with any other combination, but when I want the eggs for hatching I use a liberal amount of cut clover hay in winter, and almost any green food I can get in summer. The cut clover may be fed in the morning, mixed with one-fifth its bulk of cornmeal, and moistened. The clover may be boiled or steamed if convenient, though it is not necessary that it should be. Keep plenty of good sharp grit and clean water before them at all times, and you will not be likely to have any trouble.”

**POULTRY FARM FOR SALE.** 21 acres; 15 cleared. Buildings to hold 150 hens. Incubator cellar. Brooder house. Fruit. Price, \$1900. Write. WINFIELD DARLING, So. Setanket, L. I., N. Y.

## White Wyandottes

**98 EGGS PER HEAD** from Nov. 1 to April 1. All stock carefully bred and selected. Fine vigorous Cockerels at \$1.50. A few very choice ones for \$2.50. All farm raised. GEO. W. CONABLE, Cortland, N. Y.

**FOR SALE** at once. Fine B. P. Rocks, G. Wyandottes, both c'h's. and pullets, bred for show and business, \$1 and \$2 each. 24 Buff L. pullets, 75c. each; \$15.00 for lot. Bred for layers. Going to leave. Must sell. M. J. COHRS, Sigourney, Iowa.

## PRIZE WINNING Blue Barred Plymouth Rocks.

BRED FOR UTILITY POINTS AND STANDARD POINTS.

I bred and sold winners for the largest shows in America, from Boston to California and Canada. I have the finest line of breeders and exhibition birds I ever had. Ask for what you want, and inclose stamp. F. E. COLBY, Bow Mills, N. H.

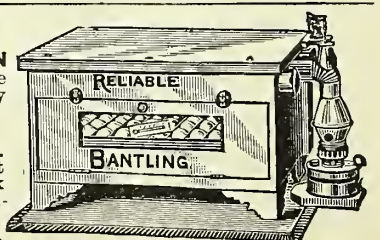
## Maple Farm Duck Yards

Our mammoth Pekin ducks stand unrivaled for size and symmetry. 2500 birds selected with care for breeding purposes. Order early. Eggs in season. My book “Natural and Artificial Duck Culture,” free with each order.

**Monarch Incubator still ahead.**

Send for catalogues to

**JAMES RANKIN, South Easton, Mass.**



## Artificial Hatching and Brooding.

*Mr. Campbell's Plan of Testing Quantity of Moisture—Utilizing Greenhouses for Rearing Chicks—Mr. Coburn's Incubator House.*

Use judgment.  
Note the details.  
Follow directions.  
Know your incubator.  
Regularity is important.  
Keep a record of the hatch.  
Brooder chicks must exercise.  
Keep a dairy for each brooder of chicks.  
Outdoor brooders are best under a shed.  
Keep the incubator away from the window.  
Too much glass in the brooder is a mistake.  
The voice of the brooder chick is again heard.  
Sand makes the best flooring in the brooder.  
Each year artificial methods are winning new friends.  
Ordinarily, the egg has enough moisture to hatch it.  
Give the incubators and brooders a good cleaning before beginning operations.  
Try the experiment of using no moisture at all, and on the 18th day closing the ventilators.  
G. O. Brown says artificial methods are nearing perfection, and seem to require less brains and experience than ever before.  
That the incubator is gradually and surely replacing the hen is more than a foregone conclusion, says the *Baltimore Sun*, for in some sections there are poultry men who cannot again be induced to "bother" with hens for incubation purposes.

Here is a novel idea by J. L. Campbell: "Any one can tell by this test whether they have too little or too much moisture: Place the eggs in warm water after two weeks. If they sink they are too moist. If they float they are too dry; but if they float with a space above the water that can be covered by a 25-cent piece they are all right. A little variation from the above is to be expected."

Editor Drevenstedt hits the nail on the head in this: "Utilizing greenhouses for rearing chickens is one of those bright but foolish inspirations unfledged amateurs are guilty of. The whole atmosphere of the greenhouse is death to chickenhood. Chickens, all reports to the contrary, are best raised under natural conditions, and that means in the open air, and on the good old sod. The reason why some varieties of fowls are delicate is because they have descended from parents that have been pampered, coddled and nursed into a state of dudish tenderness. Virility in chickenhood can only be obtained by following natural laws. A chicken thus kept and treated is as hardy as an oak, and as tough as hickory."

F. A. P. Coburn, Lowell, Mass., writes: "I read in A FEW HENS that you are going to build an incubator house this fall on the 'all above ground' plan. We built one last fall in that way, and I like it very much. I will tell you

how I built it. We put up a building 15x24, 7 foot posts, with an equal pitch roof, half each way. The total height of the building is 13 feet, that is to the peak, which gives us an attic, 6 feet high in the centre, through which we ventilate. The sides and ends are double boarded with best Neponset paper between. It is also sheathed on the inside, which gives a 4-inch air space. The roof boards are covered with Neponset paper and shingled. The floor timbers between the room and attic are boarded on both sides, which gives a 6-inch air space between attic and room. We have a register in the floor of the attic which can be worked from the room below so as to regulate the amount of ventilation. Directly above this in the roof is a small ventilator. The windows are of double sash, and are so arranged that we can take in fresh air by having the outside lower sash up, and the inside upper sash down two or three inches, and get ventilation without having a direct draught. The windows are on the south side and the house runs east and west. The door is double, and is on the east end, and opens into a room 6 feet wide. This we use for an office, and for keeping and packing eggs, and also serves for a vestibule for the other room so that we do not open into it directly from outdoors, and thus suddenly lower the temperature. There are three windows in the house—two in the incubator room, which is 15x18; and one in the vestibule or office, which is 6x15. We have a trap door in the office ceiling through which we can get into the attic, which is a good place for storage. I find this makes a fine incubator house, and I think it is a great deal better than one under or partly under ground, and is much cheaper to build. I forgot to mention that the boarding is all of matched

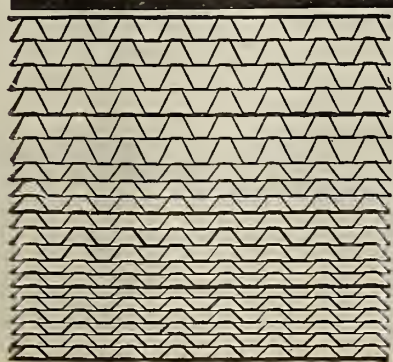


## Make Hens Lay

When eggs are high. You can do it. This Priceless Secret of Success with Poultry is fully told in our New Poultry Book. It also contains a Monthly Egg Record and

Poultry Keepers Expense Account for one year, by which profit and loss can be shown monthly (well printed on good heavy paper) worth 25 cts. It also explains Prof. Corbett's method "How to make \$500 yearly profit with 12 hens," for which he charges \$1. Also much additional information of great value to every poultry keeper. This book sent free, postpaid, as premium with our Paper (Gleanings) three months for 10 cents. Address, H. P. K., Wayside Pub'g Co., Clintonville, Conn.

## M.M.S. Poultry



Patented July 21, 1896 and July 6, 1897

## FENCING

is made of the best number nineteen galvanized steel wire, strengthened by a cable selvage and a cable every foot in the height of the fence.

## A Fence, Not a Netting.

Its multitude of horizontal wires gives it strength, makes it easy to erect and keeps it in good shape.

## 50% Saving to the User.

It requires but few posts and no top or bottom rail. Only genuine when every roll contains the famous M. M. S. trade mark. \*Descriptive matter free.

DE KALB FENCE CO., 326 High St., DE KALB, ILL.

spruce. We had some very cold nights, and some quite warm days last February and March, and there was but very little variation in the temperature of the room. In the coldest weather, with the thermometer down to 13 degrees below zero, the temperature in the room was down to only 48 degrees, and would seldom get above 60 degrees until late in the season. During May and June it was from 70 to 80 degrees, most of the time from 70 to 75 degrees.

## Ducks and Ducklings.

*Different Methods of Feeding—Mr. Christman's Great Laying Ducks—Cost of Raising Market Ducks—How James Rankin Feeds Ducklings.*

Ducklings require care.  
Profit by others experience.  
Study well before you begin.  
A duck failure is a heavy loss.  
The Pekin is the market duck.  
Successful duck culture is profitable.  
Beginners generally estimate too high.  
Heavy feeding now will not give strong fertile eggs.  
Before laying season feed more bran than cornmeal; during laying reverse it.  
It generally takes a duckling longer to free itself from the shell than it does a chick.  
The manager of Chatham Fields Plant, Chicago, claims experts can scald and dress a duckling in two minutes.

**50 YEARLING DUCKS and DRAKES.**  
Rankin stock. All ready to lay; at \$1.00 and \$1.50 each. H. P. J. Earnshaw, Hyde Park, Mass.

## White and Silver Wyandotte

STOCK and EGGS. Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Pa.

## All for One Dollar!

Profitable Poultry Farming, retail,	- - 25 Cents.
A Living From Poultry,	- - 25 "
Broilers for Profit,	- - 50 "
Farm-Poultry Doctor,	- - 50 "
A Few Hens, monthly, one year,	- - 25 "
Total,	\$1.75.

By ordering at once will send the above collection for \$1.00. Address,

MICHAEL K. BOYER,  
Box A, HAMMONTON, (Atlantic Co.,) New Jersey.

## My S. C. White Leghorns

Lay large white eggs, and lots of them.  
First quality young stock for sale at very reasonable prices. Some fine Cockerels. Can spare a few good birds of Pekin Ducks, White Plymouth Rocks and White Wyandottes. High grade. Address,  
W. HAHMAN, P. O. Box 3, Altoona, Pa.

Don't get the duck brooder hotter than 90 degrees for the start, and gradually lower that temperature as the ducklings grow.

Even James Rankin, who has bred ducks as a business for 40 years, says he is constantly learning something useful and new.

Too wet food is apt to cause diarrhoea. A day of looseness of the bowels will take as much flesh as can be put on in 4 days' feeding.

It is estimated that laying Pekin ducks will require from 2-3 to 3-4 of a quart of food per day for each duck; or from 66 to 75 quarts per 100 ducks, giving a little more at night than in the morning.

Mr. Rankin says ducklings should be fed 4 times a day until 6 weeks old, then 3 times is sufficient. Until 6 weeks of age, they should be watered only when fed, after that water also between meals.

One of the largest duck raisers on Long Island uses equal parts of cornmeal, wheat bran and a No. 2 grade of flour, and thinks cracker crumbs and boiled eggs are not necessary. He uses about 10 per cent sand.

The *American Cultivator*, in the market duck's life of 10 weeks, advises for last 2 weeks to feed only morning, noon and night, but for first 8 weeks the feeding hours should be 6 and 10 o'clock morning, 2 and 6 o'clock afternoon.

A reporter of the *American Poultry Journal* was told by the manager of Chatham Fields plant, that the cost of feed for a duck for 10 weeks is 25 cents. Labor and expenses are about the same, making the total cost 50 cents per duckling.

When ducklings are intended for breeding purposes, the *American Cultivator* says after the first week the use of equal parts by bulk of wheat bran, cornmeal and green food, with 5 per cent beef scraps, and 2 per cent coarse sand, will keep them growing.

F. Christman, Sellersville, Pa., calls attention to the continued heavy laying of his four ducks (previous records being published in A FEW HENS). He writes: "The 4 ducks have laid 538 eggs, or 134 1-2 apiece. I never saw such laying. As I believe they will lay earlier, I expect more eggs up to January 16, and thus swell the record considerably. They were hatched in June, which is pretty late. Succeeded in raising 110 young ones. From this number I picked out 41 of the nicest and sold the rest."

The *American Cultivator* recommends this mixture for laying ducks: 50 per cent (by measure) of cornmeal, 15 per cent wheat bran, 15 per cent green food (which in winter must be cooked vegetables, such as potatoes, turnips, beets, etc.), 12 per cent beef scraps, and 8 per cent coarse sand or grit, by measure, not weight. Mix with water to a dry crumbly condition, and feed twice a day, morning and night. After they have stopped laying go back to the ration of equal parts wheat bran and cornmeal, unless it is desired to fatten them, and do not increase the cornmeal until laying time has nearly come round again.

James Rankin, in *Reliable Poultry Journal*, says the first food he gives ducklings consists of bread or cracker crumbs slightly moistened, and about 10 per cent of hard-boiled eggs, chopped fine, shell and all. To this is mixed 5 per cent of coarse sand. Scatter this food on a board, place the ducklings on it, and they will be busily eating in about 10 minutes. After the 2d day rolled oats and bran can be safely used at 10 days old. Also at this age feed 1-4 meal, the rest wheat bran with a little rolled oats mixed in (not forgetting the grit), about 10 per cent good beef scraps or other animal food, and a little green food as above. At 6 weeks old feed equal parts bran and cornmeal with a little Quaker Oats, also grit and beef scraps. At 8 weeks old, 1 part bran, 3 parts cornmeal, to fatten them, with the grit and beef scraps, but not any green stuff.

### Notes in Passing.

*News in the Market Poultry World—Hints that May be of Value—Paragraphs from Our Exchanges.*

Hens love a nest made of dry sand. Brains will accomplish more than luck. Every neglect in poultry raising has its cost.

The poultry business is no "cinch" for a lazy man.

Side-track care means a switched-off profit with poultry.

Texas *Farm and Ranch* says Satan finds some mischief still for idle hens to do.

Col. Robt. A. Braden says the highest scoring birds are not the best breeders.

A good time to scatter air-slaked lime in the yards is in the evening after a rain.

The beginner who expects to be successful with untidy ways, will soon meet with disappointment.

**THE IMPROVED VICTOR INCUBATOR**



Hatches Chickens by Steam. Absolutely self-regulating. The simplest, most reliable, and cheapest first-class Hatcher in the market. Circulars free.

**GEO. ERTEL CO., Quincy, Ill.**

Catalogue 4 cents.

**FOR SALE CHEAP.** Ten horse boiler, good condition, for heating poultry or green house, price \$30. Also Mann Bone Cutter, price \$10. Also Oil Heater and about 180 feet of Pipe for brooding, all in good condition, \$20. Address, A. REED, Hammonton, New Jersey.

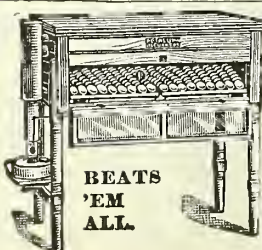
### POULTRY NETTING

At the lowest prices ever made.

2 in. mesh 2 ft. wide \$1.25	3 in. mesh 2 ft. wide \$1.00
in. mesh 3 ft. wide 1.80	in. mesh 3 ft. wide 1.50
in. mesh 4 ft. wide 2.40	in. mesh 4 ft. wide 2.00
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In rolls 150 feet long.

19 Wire Galvanized after it is woven. Price List Free. JAS. S. CASE, Box 407, Colchester, Conn.



**FORTIFY YOURSELF** against any possibility of failure in your next seasons poultry operations by buying an incubator of tested merit and known worth and which **CANNOT FAIL.**

**THE PETALUMA INCUBATOR** is a machine of that kind. It is the machine that produces only high percentages of hatch. Made of best California Red Wood, carefully packed and lined, perfectly heated and regulated, it gives satisfactory results every time. Made in sizes from 50 eggs up. **WE PAY FREIGHT ANYWHERE** in the U. S. It will pay you to get our **FREE** catalogue and prices before you buy.

**Petaluma Incubator Co. Box 256, Petaluma, Cal.**

The *Baltimore Sun* thinks there should be more brooms worn out in the poultry yard than there are.

Dr. J. H. Casey says they say quality makes the price, but it takes plenty of labor and brains to make quality.

The beginner who starts where others who have had practical experience fear to tread, is sure to come to grief. Poultry culture is made up of a chain of little things, one link out of place makes a bad kink in the whole chain.

Poultry shows are a good school, provided one is willing to learn. A prejudiced man cannot read between the lines.

*Poultry Culture* says it is as difficult to make a success with poultry without capital, as it is to raise potatoes from peanuts.

Never depend upon luck, but always spell it with a *p*, says Mr. Tillinghast, and never expect success till you have earned it.

A writer in the *Baltimore Sun* says 100 lbs. fresh hen manure contains about 50 lbs. water, 16 lbs. organic matter, 56 lbs. ash.

Judge Brown advises disposing of hens that are over two and a half years old, unless they are of especial value for stock purposes.

Veterans who have spent a quarter of a century closely identified with poultry interests, freely admit they have lessons yet to learn.

One great advantage in raising pure bred fowls for market is that their uniformity pleases the customer and makes quick sales.

**50 Choice Barred Plymouth Rock**  
Pullets and Cockerels at \$1.50 each.  
Address, P. T. HOAGLAND, Oak Hill, N. Y.

**White Wyandottes or Buff Leghorns**, bred for both practical and fancy points. Good breeding birds \$2 each, old or young. Also 12 years' experience breeding Wh., W. C. Black and B. L. Polish. Write. B. F. BRYANT, Box 19, Johnson Creek, N. Y.

**BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS, LT. WT. LT. BRAHMAS.**  
(Brown egg business strains). 250 Pullets for sale at \$1 to \$2 each. 50 fine Cockerels at \$2 and \$3 each. Incubator eggs from thoroughbred, year-old stock, \$5.00 per 100. E. D. PAGE, North Hermon, Me.

### POULTRY PRINTING.

Prices Cut in Two.

500 Envelopes, \$1.00.	500 Note Heads, \$1.00.
500 Cards, 1.00.	500 Shipping Tags, 1.00.
500 1-page Circulars, 2.50.	500 2-page Circulars, 4.00.
	500 4-page Circulars, \$6.00.

Any (one) color of ink desired, Black, Blue, Red, Green, Purple or Brown. Our work is first-class and advertises itself. Nothing cheap but the price. Fine cuts of towels for customers' use.

**Poultry Books.** "500 Questions and Answers on Poultry."—"A B C of Poultry Culture."—"Art of Poultry Breeding."—"Low Cost Poultry Houses."—"Uncle Rastus' Poultry Book."—"Pigeon Queries." The six books for \$1.00, or 25 cents each.

**The Fanciers' Review** is a 16-page practical poultry paper, with cover, 50 cents a year. Three sample numbers 10 cents. J. H. Davis, Editor. If you are not a subscriber we will accept 30 cents, the introductory price for a year's subscription.

We furnish the new Standard for \$1.00.  
**The Fanciers' Review, Box 1, Chatham, N. Y.**

G. O. Brown says the poultry raiser who is constantly complaining about "bad luck" is advertising the fact that his methods are at fault.

Fowls bred strictly for show birds have little to recommend them for useful purposes, says the "great and only" *Ohio Poultry Journal*.

Poultry manure contains 2.43 per cent of phosphoric acid, 2.26 per cent potash, and 3.25 per cent nitrogen, as ammonia and organic matter.

The *Rural New-Yorker* says that the poultry exhibit at the New York State Fair indicated that the Black Minorcas are gaining somewhat on the Leghorns.

The Standard-bred fowl is "the highly polished gentleman"—the utility bird is "the plain, honest workman." Which of the two does the country the most good?

The average hen outlives her usefulness in two years, and should go to the market or kettle, says *Practical Poultryman*. Old hens are more likely to contract diseases.

When the importance of poultry culture becomes better understood, says *Western Rural*, and its profits and benefits more fully realized, it will cease to be regarded as a small business.

If you are situated so you cannot get lime to whitewash the inside of the coop, use a strong solution of salt water, says G. O. Brown. This is as sure death to mites as whitewash.

There is as much difference between a Standard-bred hen and a thoroughbred, as between a fashionable parlor girl and a handsome kitchen maid. Which would the poor man choose to support?

There is money in all branches of the poultry business, says *American Fancier*, but no man need delude himself that he will make a fortune without his neighbors having something to say about it.

Method and regularity is a strong team in the poultry business, says the *Baltimore Sun*. Eternal vigilance is the only safe, sure and real way to make the poultry business a creditable success.

The *Baltimore Sun* says it is a good plan to have awnings or hoods of cheap muslin or boards to go over the windows of the hen house in summer to keep out the sun. They will keep the house much cooler.

The *Fanciers' Review* says: "All fowls which are bred for eggs or meat, or both, are utility fowls." Correct. But such are not Standard-bred poultry—the latter being bred more for feathers and "points."

Thomas Frazer, manager of the Union Cold Storage Co., Montreal, Canada, after a careful series of experiments, figures it out that the gross revenue from hens is over five times greater than that from the cow.

G. O. Brown says the way to success in poultry raising is to commence with a few hens and increase in accordance with the demand, and as circumstances will permit, always keeping upmost the factors that promote success.

"Take a small chicken in both hands, with the thumbs on its back, and move

it gently to the right or left, or in any direction, an inch or more, and the head will remain perfectly stationery. If you have not already tried it, do so. It is quite amusing.—C. E. Brown.

The *Practical Poultryman* says birds cannot open the foot when the leg is bent. That is the reason they do not fall off their perches. If you watch a hen walking, you will notice that it closes its toes as it raises the foot, and opens them as it touches the ground. Here is a tonic for that discouraged feeling, prescribed by *Rural New-Yorker*, and which we know will be of great value to the poultry fraternity: "Take equal parts of *Keep Your Eyes Open and Think*; mix with twice the quantity of *Hustle*, and take unlimited doses."

The imports of the product of poultry culture into the United States from other countries indicate that the field is yet open to a large increase of the industry in this country, and that the opportunity is waiting for those with sagacity and industry enough to take advantage of it.

The *Baltimore Sun* says: Nowadays, on the best farms, all the live stock is purebred of some kind—and they are referred to as "purebreds," instead of "fancy," as used to be the case. There is more profit in pure breeds than scrubs, and intelligent farmers are finding out the fact.

The *Poultry Monthly* says: Compared with well-rotted barn manure, there are 48.60 lbs. of phosphoric acid in hen manure to 6 in barnyard manure; 41 lbs. potash to 10 in barnyard manure, and 67 lbs. nitrogen to 11 in barnyard manure. The analysis is based on a ton of hen and barnyard manures.

One reason why a farmer cannot make money so rapidly as one can in many other lines of business, is because he cannot turn his money over quickly enough, says J. J. Tillinghast. Poultry keeping will help the farmer in this respect by giving him steady cash returns if rightly managed.

**GOOD** Cockerels, White Wyandotte, White Plymouth Rock, from big laying stock, at rock bottom prices. C. E. Snow, Box 135, Wollaston, Mass.

### The King of Roasting Fowls!

Light Brahma Cockerels—for matings for strong frames, hardiness and all the points of value in table poultry. \$3 each for choice; \$2 for next best. Michael K. Boyer, Hammondon, Atlantic Co., N. J.

### Strong, Vigorous Cockerels

from heavy laying strains of White Wyandottes and Barred Plymouth Rocks, \$2.00 each. Eggs in season. Address, **Seekonk Poultry Farm**, Wm. E. Morgan, Prop. Seekonk, Mass.

### Barred

among my birds for past five years. Satisfaction guaranteed. Money back if you say so. No circulars. C. H. CANFIELD, Bath, (Steuben County), N. Y.

**PLYMOUTH ROCKS**, exclusively. All farm raised, strong, healthy birds. Bred for practical results, in eggs and meat. Cockerels \$2.00, \$2.50 and \$3.00 each. Pullets same prices. No sickness

# RABBITS

One of the great drawbacks in poultry raising is the loss by thieves. In some sections farmers do not try to raise many on this account. The *Baltimore Sun* says it should be the aim of farmers to raise all the poultry they can, and then by united effort secure the depredators of their flocks and bring them to justice.

Many a man has made a failure in poultry keeping who unduly increased his flock without taking into consideration the necessity of proportionately adding to their accommodations, says Judge Brown. Where a flock of 50 hens will do well, even the addition of 25 more will endanger the profit unless additional comforts are provided.

J. H. Davis, in *Practical Poultryman*, makes this bold assertion: "The Black Spanish never threw white spots." Yes, they did. The editor of *A FEW HENS* once owned a Spanish hen that came after the first moult in white spots, then a pure white, and then back again to the white spots. Evidently Mr. Davis don't know all about Spanish.

It is common to call all poultry "chickens," but strictly speaking, a chicken is a young fowl, generally under 6 months of age, and a "fowl" over that, says *Ohio Poultry Journal*. On the same basis, a young rooster under one year of age, or a young female of the same age, are known as cockerel and pullet respectively. They become cock and hen after that age.

**Barred, White, Buff Plymouth Rocks.** Large, strong, vigorous birds bred for utility and beauty. Cockerels from \$2 up; Pullets \$1.50 up. Satisfaction or your money back. EDWIN RIEDEL, Wilton Brook Farm, Easthampton, Mass.

### For Beauty and Business

W. Wyandotte, W. P. Rock and S. C. B. Leghorn Cockerels. A. E. HUTCHINSON, Gilead, Conn.

**BEAUTIFUL COCHIN BANTAMS**, Buff or White, at \$2.00 per pair. WM. M. CONNORS, Box A, Weston, Somerset County, New Jersey.

**G. & S. & B. W.** I breed Golden and Silver Laced and Buff Wyandottes. If you need any tock of above write wants. Lots of C's. All birds farm raised. Breeder since '84. F. S. Tenney, Peterboro, N. H.

### COCKERELS.

Norton Heavy Laying strains Wh. Wyandottes and B. P. Rocks, \$1.50 to \$4. Other strains. Write wants. C. A. DUNLAP, Falmouth, Maine.

**GUN.** English New Model; double barreled breach loader; 12 bore; laminated barrels; good as new, \$20.00. P. O. Box 47 Glendale, Long Island, N. Y.

### Northup's Minorcas

**NORTHUP'S** 1898 Minorca Catalogue, the most complete ever published in descriptions, prices, 1000 winnings, new pictures of buildings and towns, contains much information fully indexed under 60 headings. Rose and Single Comb cocks, hens, cockerels and pullets at bargains. GEORGE H. NORTHUP, Box 15, Raceville, N. Y.

**800** White Wyandottes, {Hawkins & Felch.  
Barred Plymouth Rocks.

Plenty of nicely marked birds, large, strong, well matured; price only one-half as much as we have paid prominent breeders for same quality. If stock is not absolutely satisfactory you can send it back at our expense and we will refund your money. MILES BROS., Spring Hill, Pa.

**THE ONLY LOW-COST BOOK ON THE RABBIT** ever published to our knowledge, is "The Rabbit: How to Select, Breed and Manage the Rabbit for Pleasure or Profit," by W. N. Richardson, Secretary of the American Belgian Hare Club, and a man of long experience with Rabbits. Second edition now ready, nicely illustrated, enlarged and much improved. Price 25 cts, or with *AMERICAN POULTRY ADVOCATE* one year 40 cts.

CLARENCE C. DUPUY, Publisher, 314-320 East Onondaga St., Syracuse, N. Y.

E. O. R., in *Country Gentleman*, says a man who has tried several pursuits and has succeeded in none, and finally concludes he will try poultry, could hardly expect to make much of a living from it. But on the other hand, he who could succeed in any pursuit requiring work and application, might reasonably expect to make a success and a good living from poultry.

Jos. A. Tillinghast, in an address before the Rhode Island Experiment Station poultry class, said there are personal traits of character which underlie success in any business, and these must naturally be possessed, or else acquired, before we can look for the best results from a man's labor. He must have application, patience, persistence, and, in every sense of the word, be a hustler.

The Hebrew holidays began September 17 and 18, being the New Year. Fowls, turkeys, ducks and geese were most in demand. September 26 was the next holiday, calling for prime live poultry, especially chickens and roosters. The next holiday was October 1 and 2, and fowls, ducks, and good fat geese were most in demand. The last of the fall holidays was October 8 and 9, when all kinds of live poultry were wanted.

"Little chicks no more need sand or grit in their feed than the breeder needs it in his food. And this practice has, no doubt, killed thousands of chicks which were supposed to have died of some popular affliction." The above is about on par with all the wise (?) criticisms of such poultry writers who believe that the road to popularity is fastest travelled by opposing every teaching—practical or otherwise. The writer of the aforesaid squib knows precious little about chicks or the poultry business.

W. H. Rudd & Son, So. Natick, Mass., in their 27th annual poultry circular, state: "While many persons apprehended that the rapid and constant increase of poultry raisers would result in over-production, yet the present year starts in with the lightest receipts of broilers, and the highest prices for many years past, which in view of the shortness of life, certainly places all fear of the business being overdone, so far in the dim future, as to entirely relieve the most timid among us of all solicitude on this point."

"To rid the poultry houses of rats, minks or weasels, use coal tar," says C. F. Hotchkiss, in *Green's Fruit Grower*. "Place it in their holes, runs, etc., and they will leave the premises, and stay away while the tar lasts. I can drive the rats from a large warehouse with a quart of coal tar. It is equally as effective for vermin (lice) in the roost. For the latter it may be thinned with gasoline if desired, and applied to perch and walls of the poultry house with a whisk broom once each year, after which the building will be clear of the pest."

It is peculiar that sensible, practical poultrymen often advise cleaning the hen house "at least twice a week." They also say "scatter road dust over the droppings," etc. Such methods

are not cleanly nor sanitary, either, says the *Baltimore Sun*. The flock of hens that have to breathe the atmosphere of two or three nights' droppings, whether the accumulation has been doctored with road dust, ashes or any other material, are not properly cared for. In such henhouses it does not take long for the floors to become thoroughly impregnated with vile odors—the boards will soon rot. Such houses are always contaminated with unpleasant odors. Even when the hen house has its semi-occasional cleaning, the odors still exist. Everyday cleaning is the only method that should be followed.

The Sprague Commission Co., 218 South Water Street, Chicago, Ills., furnish A FEW HENS with a report of the poultry crop of 1898. The estimates given were compiled from several hundred inquiries sent throughout Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri and Nebraska, and also a few points in Kentucky, Tennessee and other Southern States. It is a reliable and unbiased opinion. Notwithstanding that in nearly all instances the advices received touch upon the wet and cold spring as having been unfavorable for the hatching of the eggs, the crops of the different kinds will compare well with that of the year 1897. The indications are that fairly remunerative prices will be obtained. The crop of turkeys for the year 1898 will not vary much from that of last year—possibly 5 to 10 per cent larger, or about 65 to 70 per cent of a full crop. For the year 1897 the crop was about 75 per cent of the crop of 1896, and was 60 per cent of a full crop. The increase this year, if any, was due to the high prices which ruled last year, in consequence of a short crop, and influenced farmers to increase their supply of turkeys. The crop of chickens will again be a large one—fully as large as 1897, possibly 10 per cent larger—and

as the crop of 1897 was 10 per cent larger than 1896, it is generally conceded that the crop will be above an average. In nearly every instance the crop was reported same as last year, or larger. In some instances the reports note a smaller crop than 1897, but there are not enough of these to cut any figure in the general crop. The reports on ducks again indicate a large crop for this year, and it is fair to estimate that the supply of ducks will be as large for the year 1898 as it was in 1897, which was 15 per cent larger than for the year 1896. The low price which prevailed during 1897 naturally discouraged the raising of ducks in many sections, and some points report a material reduction. The crop of geese, while not a full crop, will be quite large and estimated at about 85 per cent, or about the same as last year to possibly a little larger. Prospects are that the quality of the geese will be better than last year, as grain is cheaper and farmers will be more inclined to feed than they were during the year 1897.

**BEAUTIFUL COCHIN BANTAMS**, Buff or White, at \$2.00 per pair. WM. M. CONNERS, Box A, Weston, Somerset County, New Jersey.

### BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK Cockerels

Bred from hens selected for their size, shape, nicely barred and good laying qualities. \$1.00 and \$2.00 each. Also a few good pullets. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. C. C. Shorb, McDaniel, Md.

**CHOICE B. P. ROCK** strong, vigorous cockerels from a heavy laying strain. Pedigree Coburn-Hunter, making a fine bird with paying qualities. Am offering them at low price of \$1, \$2 and \$3 each. Eggs in season. E. W. HARRIS, No. Acton, Mass.

**WHITE WYANDOTTE COCKERELS** from first-class stock. Snowy plumage. Full of business. While they last, \$1.50 each. Write quick. H. L. HUEDER, Box 35, No. Lindale, Ohio.



**POULTRY PAPER**, illus'd, 20 pages, 25 cts. per year. 4 months trial 10 cts. Sample Free. 64-page practical poultry book free to yearly subscribers. Book alone 10 cts. Catalogue of poultry books free. *Poultry Advocate*, Syracuse, N. Y.



It will keep your poultry strong and healthy. It will make young pullets lay early. Worth its



weight in gold for moulting hens, and prevents all diseases. Eggs are larger and more fertile. They succeed best in raising poultry for profit, who commence with little chicks; giving them twice a week an even teaspoonful of Sheridan's Condition Powder, gradually increasing the dose until full grown.

Condition Powder mixed with each quart of food, gradually increasing the dose until full grown.  
**No Matter What Kind of Foods You Use!**  
**SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER**

Is needed with it to assure perfect assimilation of the food elements necessary to produce eggs. It is absolutely pure; Highly concentrated; Most economical, because such small doses; No other kind one-fourth as strong; In quantity it costs less than one-tenth cent a day per head. Sold by Druggists, Grocers and Feed Dealers. Large cans are the most economical to buy.

**If You Can't Get it near Home, send to us. Ask first.**

We send postpaid one pack for 25 cts; five \$1.00. A two-pound can \$1.20; Six cans \$5.00 exp. paid. Sample copy "best poultry paper" sent free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO, Boston, Mass.

## People We Know.

*Facts and News Gleaned Especially for A FEW HENS About People We Know.*

I. K. Felch & Son, Natick, Mass., are the "old reliables."

The *American Poultry Advocate*, Syracuse, N. Y., is one of the best of our exchanges.

Niagara Farm, in our advertising column, is offering the biggest bargains of the season.

J. MacFlickinger, Fannettsburg, Pa., offers the biggest bargains in May-hatched ducklings we have yet seen.

Those interested in fancy pigeons or Game bantams, should write to R. H. Young, Louisville, Ky., for bargains.

The condensed price list of poultry supplies, as issued by John H. Slack, Bloomsbury, N. J., gives some very low figures.

The Star Incubator Co., Bound Brook, N. J., have issued a circular of strong testimonials. It will be sent free to all who apply.

The Rabbit book, published by C. C. DePuy, 314-320 E. Onondaga St., Syracuse, N. Y., is full of information, and remarkably cheap at 25 cts.

The good "old reliable" *Poultry Monthly* seems to grow better by age. It is the handsomest of our exchanges, and is replete with useful, sensible poultry lore. Send 10 cents for a sample to *Poultry Monthly*, Albany, N. Y.

Please send me three bags more of Bowker's Animal Meal. It is my opinion now that one can hardly afford to keep hens without it. It is simply wonderful in its effect for producing eggs.

E. S. FARNUM, UXBRIDGE, MASS.

Bowker's Animal Meal advertised in A FEW HENS is a pure, sweet combination of thoroughly cooked meat and bone for poultry; an egg-making, health-sustaining food that is at once the best and cheapest that can be obtained. It makes hens lay; it makes chickens grow.

This is the time of the year to look after the egg yield. All pullets and hens that have not yet started should receive some attention—something is wrong. Probably a little tonic will right the trouble. We know from past experience, that there is nothing on earth to start hens to laying as Sheridan's Condition Powder. Try it.

A FEW HENS has been favored with a cabinet photo of the Curtiss Bros., proprietors of Niagara Farm, Ransomville, N. Y. The photo shows the two young men ("who do their own work") in the act of dressing a fine lot of 10 weeks' old ducklings for market. The Curtiss brothers are hustlers.

PITTSBURGH, PA., Oct. 14, 1898.

DEAR SIR: I consider the Eureka nest to be the best contrivance of the kind for the purpose intended that I have ever seen. If more attention was paid to finding out which are the loafers among hens much more profit would come to the poultry keeper. Respectfully,

(Signed) R. F. SHANNON.

We have received a copy of the second edition of "Poultry Houses and Fixtures." This is a valuable book, and will be sent postpaid for 25 cents. It contains up-to-date designs of practical poultry buildings for the city lot, the village acre, and the farm; the most modern arrangements for raising poultry artificially, including incubator cellar and several styles of brooding houses; also handy low cost fixtures for poultry house and yard. Published and for sale by the *Reliable Poultry Journal*, Quincy, Ills.

JUNIPER POULTRY YARDS,

MIDDLE VILLAGE, L. I., Oct. 16, 1898.

I have this day sold to T. F. McGrew of New York City all my Buff Cochins Bantams, old and young, including all my prize winners, also cuts and good will in this variety, and agree not to handle, breed nor exhibit them for three years.

(Signed) RICHARD A. HOMEYER.

Having secured all the above stock, shall offer for sale the greater part at exceedingly low prices.

T. F. MCGREW,

1267 Broadway, N. Y.

W. R. Curtiss & Co., proprietors of the Niagara Farm, Ransomville, N. Y., are securing quite a reputation for their cut clover hay. Last year the demand was so great that they concluded to be better fixed this season so as to more promptly fill orders. Consequently they have had to put in improved machinery, and will now be able to not only quickly fill all orders, but, owing to the excellent crop of clover they raised the past summer, will be able to offer a much superior article. Their clover is cut and cured green on purpose for poultry. It is not only cut in 1-4 inch lengths but in order to have it uniform (as despite the best of care some long straws will get through when cutting—and which are apt to produce crop bound)—they screen it, thus enabling them to remove everything over 1-4 inch in

length. Raising their own crop they can supply poultrymen cheaper than any other firm not so situated. The prices this year are \$1.25 per 100 lbs.; or \$1.00 per 100 lbs. in 500 lb. lots, or more. We use considerable of this cut clover on the A FEW HENS Experimental Farm, and therefore know what we are recommending.

The Spindle City Poultry Yards, owned and operated by F. A. P. Coburn, Lowell, Mass., are noted for purity of stock and excellency in utility qualifications. The varieties kept are Barred Plymouth Rocks and White Wyandottes. These yards were started 6 years ago, and gradually each year have increased in size. Mr. Coburn announces: "While we breed for the so-called fancy points, such as correct shape, markings, comb, etc., we do not sacrifice the utility points, viz.: market qualities and egg production." That is the class and stamp of a breeder it pays to buy of, and A FEW HENS can safely recommend Mr. Coburn for good stock, low rates and reliable dealings. Under date of August 1, Mr. Coburn writes: "I have a fine lot of chicks coming along, and am going to have some very nice ones among them. I have not quite so many as usual at this time, having between 700 and 800. I raised a number quite early, and disposed of them as broilers. I saved a few of the best pullets out of the lot, and some of them are now laying. I also have 10 or 12 as nice well matured pullets that are just the thing for the early fall shows. Mr. Curtiss, of the *Reliable Poultry Journal*, was here last Monday and he told me that for size, markings, and other points, they were the best he had ever seen thus far."

## 1000 BANTAMS.

Probably the largest recent deal in poultry in this country was the purchase of Bantams by Editor A. E. Blunck of the *Daily Republican*, Johnstown, N. Y., by which he secured all of the Golden and Silver Sebrights, Buff, Black and White Cochins, and White Japanese Bantams formerly owned by that well-known breeder, W. J. Andrus of Hackensack, N. J. Mr. Blunck has also purchased of William Holmes of Shelton, Conn., all of his prize-winning Golden Sebright and Buff Cochins Bantams, besides a lot of Game and Variety Bantams of Havemeyer Bros. of Mahwah, N. J., and several other smaller lots of the best birds to be had in this country.

These birds, added to Mr. Blunck's Prospect Hill Poultry Farm stock of imported and home-bred Game and Ornamental Bantams, gives him about 1,000 head, and he is now offering his surplus stock of several hundred Bantams for sale, which will give our readers an opportunity of buying some first-class birds at reasonable prices.

We are starting with this issue of A FEW HENS, the Annual trade announcement of the Petaluma Incubator Co. of Petaluma, Cal. Their advertisement will be found on another page.

These people have long been manufacturing these Petaluma machines, and it is but fair to say they are esteemed most highly where they are best known. They lay claim to superiority

of material, construction and results, and are prepared to show dates to back up their claims that they are the oldest manufacturers of successful hot air machines. They use in building these machines the famous California Redwood, which is said to possess special merit for this purpose. They publish a handsome catalogue which they mail free to all inquirers, an examination of which will show prospective buyers that they can save them several dollars in freight bill by their system which is to prepay the freight at the price quoted on their machines anywhere in the United States.

Write them for a copy and kindly say that you saw the advertisement in our paper.



The Evans Root and Vegetable Cutter.

The cut we show herewith gives a very correct illustration of the Evans Root and Vegetable Cutter. It is designed for the purpose of cutting up and pulping all kinds of roots, vegetables and fruit for easy consumption of poultry. It does not slice or grind the roots, etc., but chips them into rather long, slender pieces not unlike large angle worms or grubs, so that the product may be easily eaten by poultry without danger of choking. It affords an easy means of supplying the green and succulent food so much relished by fowls and so essential to success in the winter time. That veteran poultry breeder and editor, Michael K. Boyer, who is using one daily, has the following to say of it: "We haven't an article on the farm we prize more highly (a single exception here) than we do this Evans Root Cutter." Again he says: "There are three machines in our feed room that we simply could not do without, viz., the Evans Root and Vegetable Cutter." It is a labor saver and a money maker and should be in use on every poultry farm. The machine is well endorsed by the leading editors and breeders of poultry. It is manufactured by the Evans Manufacturing Co., of Ypsilanti, Mich., who will take pleasure in sending you circulars, pieces, etc. Write them and kindly say that you saw this in our paper.

# SPECIAL VALUE.

## Complete Volumes of Farm-Poultry. Graded Series.

Sent Express prepaid by us; or 25c. less may be sent in each case, if you pay the express when you receive the package. In either case you get great value.

**Volumes 1, 2 and 3. Bound, One Book, \$1.75**

For beginners and those wishing information for starting in Poultry Raising.

**Volumes 4 and 5. Unbound, One Package, \$1.25**

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